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QATAR

JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA PAYS 1-DAY VISIT

NC091100Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 9 Sep 78 NC

[Excerpt] Doha, 9 September--The heir apparent and defense minister, Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, was at the head of the officials who received Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda when he arrived at Doha airport this morning on a 1-day visit to Qatar.

Communique on Visit

NC100938Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0835 GMT 10 Sep 78 NC

[Text] Doha, 10 September--Qatar and Japan have called for the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 pertaining to the Middle East, including withdrawal of Israeli forces from all Arab territories occupied in 1967 and recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination in accordance with the UN Charter. The two countries emphasized the importance of safeguarding peace and stability in the Indian Ocean area. They also emphasized their support for keeping this area a zone of peace in line with UN General Assembly Resolution 2832.

This was contained in the joint communique which has been issued here following Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda's visit to Qatar, which ended today, and his talks with the Qatari ruler, His Highness Shaykh Kahlifah ibn Hamad Al Thani.

The communique reads:

In response to an invitation from the Qatari ruler, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, and the prime minister, his excellency the prime minister of Japan, Takeo Fukuda, and a delegation accompanying him paid an official visit to Qatar 7 to 8 Shawwal 1398, corresponding to 9 to 10 September 1978. His excellency the distinguished guest was given an official ceremonious welcome which expressed the esteem which Qatar holds for Japan and the strong ties of friendship which bind the two countries.

During the visit the Qatari ruler, His Highness Shaykh Kahlifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, received the Japanese prime minister and held talks with him. They had a frank and fruitful exchange of views on the international situation, including the situation in the gulf, and on affairs of mutual interest to Qatar and Japan. The talks were characterized by amity and friendship. The two leaders emphasized that their talks have contributed to achieving more mutual understanding and have strengthened the relations of friendship between the two countries.

The two leaders noted with satisfaction that the economic and trade relations between their countries have advanced rapidly in recent years. They expressed the hope that the scope of this advancement will expand in the future.

The two leaders agreed to increase technical and cultural cooperation and to exchange personal meetings to strengthen and diversify the relations of cooperation between the two countries.

In reviewing the international conditions of mutual interest, the two sides reaffirmed their firm belief in the principles and objectives of the UN Charter and noted that without the endorsement of and abidance by these principles and aims the aspirations of the world for peace, stability, security and prosperity cannot prevail. The two leaders praised the efforts which the United Nations is exerting to establish a new international economic system that will achieve a balance in the economic relations between the developing states and the industrial states and safeguard the interests of these states on an equal footing so that prosperity will prevail throughout the world.

The two leaders reaffirmed the international political and economic importance of the gulf region. The Japanese side expressed great appreciation for the role Qatar is playing to strengthen development in the area.

The two sides emphasized the importance of safeguarding peace and stability in the Indian Ocean. They emphasized their support for keeping this area an area of peace in line with UN General Assembly Resolution 2832.

The two leaders agreed that the initiative to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East is a basic matter for world peace. Consequently, this requires the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, including withdrawal of Israel forces from all the Arab territories occupied in the 1967 war and recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination, in line with the UN Charter.

His excellency the distinguished guest expressed extreme appreciation for the great achievements accomplished by Qatar in all fields, thanks to the directives and wise leadership of his highness the ruler of the country.

The two leaders expressed their full satisfaction with the results of the visit. They agreed to continue their meetings and said that intensive consultations should take place between the senior officials of the two sides when the need arises, with a view to strengthening the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

His excellency the guest expressed warm gratitude to his highness the ruler of Qatar and to its government and people for the very warm hospitality accorded him and the delegation accompanying him during the visit.

His excellency the guest extended an invitation to his highness the ruler to make an official visit to Japan. His highness accepted the invitation and promised to respond to it as soon as possible.

Leaves for Abu Dhabi

NC100926Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0902 GMT 10 Sep 78 NC

[Excerpt] Doha, 10 September--Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda and the delegation accompanying him left Doha this morning for Abu Dhabi, concluding a 1-day official visit to the State of Qatar.

MEDIA COMMENT ON CAMP DAVID 10 SEPTEMBER

Cairo Radio

NC1014444Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Sep 78 NC

[Commentary by Muhammad Sharaf entitled "Progress on Crucial Issues and Differences on Other Crucial Issues at the Camp David Conference"]

[Text] The White House official spokesman, who gives press briefings on the Camp David tripartite conference, has stated that the conference has made progress on some issues but that there are still differences on some other issues. The spokesman noted that all the issues on which progress has been made but about which there are still differences are crucial issues concerning the Middle East problem. He said all the issues are connected with each other in such a way that one can say that progress must be achieved on all issues.

As we can see, even though the journalists have considered these statements as the first indication of the course which the talks between U.S. President Carter, President Anwar as-Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin are taking, these statements cannot be regarded as a basis for predicting the results which the conference may achieve. In any case, it is futile now to attempt to assess or speculate anything, in view of the absence of all the elements on which a sound assessment or speculation can be made. All we can say in this respect is that the Camp David conference has in fact reached a delicate stage in its work and that the coming 2 days will be decisive concerning the work of the conference.

Various reports have indicated that the three leaders have reviewed all the topics that the talks have covered so far. This in itself is an indication that the talks have reached a stage whereby it has become necessary to review the topics that have been discussed so far. Away from any speculation and on the basis of reports by some informed sources, it can be said that despite the progress which has been made, it is premature to say that the three leaders are now closer to agreeing on a declaration of principles concerning a settlement. These sources have indicated that the main issue which may still need further negotiations is the future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. It is known that it is this issue which led to the suspension of the talks between Egypt and Israel as a result of Israel's unacceptable stand in this regard.

If the talks are now dealing with this problem, this necessarily means that UN Security Council Resolution 242 will be discussed. Press reports have stated that the United States has submitted its viewpoint regarding the interpretation of this resolution. We do not believe that the United States has submitted something new in this respect. The U.S. position on Resolution 242 is known. The United States believes that the resolution calls for Israel's withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied in June 1967, with minor modifications of the borders. Maybe U.S. President Carter has already explained the nature of these modifications at the conference. We do not want to anticipate events concerning Israel's position or concerning Israel's interpretation of Resolution 242. It is known that Israel's declared position divests the resolution of every sound content. When we say that we do not want to anticipate events concerning this, we mean that perhaps Israel has adjusted its position on the resolution in one way or another. As for Egypt's position, it is known. There is no alternative to Israel's withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied during the 1967 aggression, and there must be no infringement of Arab sovereignty on the Arab lands. Moreover, it is necessary to guarantee the legitimate rights of the Palestinians. This is all that we can say about the course of the talks at Camp David so far.

Voice of the Arabs

LD101522Y Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Sep 78 LI

[Muhammad ad-Dali Commentary]

[Text] It is a well-known fact that the issues of the Middle East conflict are extremely intermingled and interlinked, and any one issue could detonate the situation or blow up agreements reached on other issues; hence the cautious optimism shown by the observers following the tangible progress made at Camp David in respect to some basic vital issues. But some other basic issues are still disputed and are under consideration by the parties to the Camp David meetings, as affirmed by Jody Powell, the press spokesman of the Camp David conference, in the first statement he has made on the essence of the talks. He pointed out that the talks have actually reached a critical stage, which demands that each side evaluate what has been achieved. He also said that the talks have made some progress with respect to some basic issues, but there are still differences affecting important questions.

This means that the conference is now concentrating on the essence of the conflict and not on formalities, and that there is a general feeling that the progress that has been achieved is connected in one form or another with the issues which are still subject to dispute. Hence the cautious optimism. On the other hand, this means that the tempo of work at Camp David has sped up to such an extent that perhaps we may say that the conference has entered an active stage and is directly moving deep into the basic issues.

In light of the course of events, we wish to say that the Middle East area now stands on the threshold of a grave and important stage because it will affect, in the full sense of the word, the shape of the political map in this area; it is at a crossroads, and it is difficult now to predict the course events will take. It is possible to call this stage the stage of decisionmaking, and on it will depend many developments in the area.

There are two possible courses for the situation in the Middle East to take in the present stage: Either it will continue on the right course we seek, which aims at the establishment of a stable peace characterized by justice and durability, or it will falter, and matters would then revert to the course that conflict has taken for 30 years, which certainly is not in the interest of any of the peoples of the area, nor in the interest of world peace.

Amid the expectations and speculations about the results of the Camp David conference and the likely consequences that will stem from it, and the difficulty of favoring one likelihood over another, there is one thing which we can confirm and stress under all conditions: Egypt's principled position. It is a sincere and continuing position which aims at a comprehensive settlement and rejects partial solutions or unilateral agreements in whatever form or any temporary or phased step.

Egypt's position has been and continues to be characterized by flexibility, with the preservation of the pan-Arab goal of holding land, right and sovereignty sacred. It is a position which seeks peace in its true sense.

Finally we return to the lobbies of the conference, which is considered the most serious conference held at such a level in the entire history of the conflict, and the efforts to find a solution for it. By this we mean the reports which the observers have received with optimism marked with cautiousness. In this respect we prefer to wait, because complete optimism depends on what the few days to come will hold.

Papers Comment

NC100746Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 10 Sep 78 NC

[Press review]

[Excerpts] The Cairo newspapers today give prominence to the statements of the official spokesman of the Camp David conference in which he announced for the first time since the conference began that the talks have entered a crucial stage, that tangible progress has been achieved on a number of basic issues, and that there are still differences on other issues. The papers say that the alternative ideas submitted by U.S. President Jimmy Carter at Camp David are related to the U.S. interpretation of UN Security Council Resolution 242.

On the developments in Lebanon the Cairo papers report that the fighting between the Syrian forces and the rightist militia is approaching the point of an all-out war while the Israeli military establishment continues with its suspicious moves, confirming its threat to interfere if the fighting between the two sides intensifies.

In its editorial today, AL-AHRAM deals with the Camp David summit conference, taking a position between optimism and pessimism. It begins by saying that the extension of the big conference into another week is in itself a good sign. It adds: However, this sign does not make us indulge in excessive optimism. What matters are the results. Needless to say, the majority of world public opinion expects from the Camp David talks a declaration clearly specifying the principles of a settlement which must be interpreted as containing an Israeli commitment to withdraw from all fronts and a recognition of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people. Clarity and frankness in any declaration issued by the conference, if it succeeds, are necessary for the negotiations which would follow and which, it is hoped, would include the parties to the conflict to enable the implementation of the principles of a comprehensive settlement.

In conclusion, AL-AHRAM says: Another sign at Camp David is that the U.S. side is concentrating heavily on Israel to discern its position regarding the elements of a comprehensive settlement. We do not wish to prejudge this sign. The U.S. role is supposed to be one of compelling Israel to acknowledge the principles of an overall settlement. As we have said, the results are what matters.

AL-AKHBAR comments on the reports of progress at Camp David. It says that none of the reports carried by the news agencies and radios provides a definite account of what has been achieved in the big conference. It adds: These are general words not containing a definitive or discernible degree of success to warrant overoptimism. These are speculations described by the White House as premature.

AL-AKHBAR adds: Overoptimism is wrong at this stage--a stage of coming to some understanding, which may or may not happen. Nevertheless, while cautioning against overoptimism, we especially caution against the suspect words uttered about what the conference has achieved. It was said yesterday that the U.S. President may have fulfilled his main aim at Camp David: insuring the continuation of the negotiations. Is the continuation of the negotiations all the U.S. President wants from the conference? No, but this is the objective of Menahem Begin--what Begin calls the road to continuing the negotiations and everything is negotiable.

AL-AKHBAR maintains that so far we can neither be optimistic nor pessimistic. It adds: We are still awaiting the decisive stand--a stand we look for in the coming days and a stand the whole world is looking for. The world's only hope in this hinges on the position of the United States and the effort the U.S. President makes to promote a just peace.

Under the headline "Begin's Illusions," AL-JUMHURIYAH throws light on the attitudes which constitute Israel's political behavior as reflected by the Israeli prime minister's behavior. It says that Begin does not want any settlement under the canopy of the United Nations or on the basis of any UN resolutions, because he knows that if he were to accept this he would open himself to pressure from the majority of world public opinion, which has one interpretation of Resolution 242. This interpretation, the paper says, is complete Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories and restoration of the Palestinian people's rights.

The paper adds: Begin still thinks he can bypass Resolution 242 and the other UN resolutions based on it, including the resolution recognizing the Palestinians as an entity, not just a group of refugees. Begin still imagines that he can, outside the framework of the United Nations and its various bodies, get more than Resolution 242 gives him. Begin detests the balance on which Resolution 242 was based and he thinks that he can take without giving.

The paper concludes: In all this Begin is deluding himself. If he thinks that the Camp David discussions could succeed if he does not change these ideas, he is deluding himself even more.

ROSE AL-YUSUF

NC1012147 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1003 GMT 10 Sep 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 10 September--The magazine ROSE AL-YUSUF has said that in the event the Camp David summit conference attains a declaration of principles for a comprehensive settlement, which is the principal Egyptian condition for the resumption of peace negotiations with Israel, there is a likelihood that tripartite discussions between Egypt, the United States and Israel will be held in Cairo in the second half of September. Quoting informed sources, the magazine says in tomorrow's edition that it is probable that the talks will become quadripartite, when one of the Arab confrontation states participates in them.

The magazine says that the reports arriving from Washington have indicated that it is probable that a request will be made for the convocation of a UN Security Council extraordinary session if Israel continues to be intransigent at the Camp David summit. It is known that Egypt still clings to its view that the United Nations is the basic umbrella for solving the Middle East issue and that any resort to the Security Council will achieve the idea of U.S. participation as expressed by President Carter and at the same time will preclude the factor of the imposition of a U.S. solution or U.S. proposals on the sides to the conflict because the United States is a permanent member of the Security Council.

ROSE AL-YUSUF adds that another probability is to invite the Arab League Council to a meeting to be held in New York at the foreign ministers level during the UN General Assembly's ordinary session, which will open in the third week of September.

AS-SIYASI

NC_01124Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2108 GMT 10 Sep 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 10 September--The Egyptian weekly paper AS-SIYASI says in today's edition that despite the tight secrecy which shrouds the discussions of the tripartite conference at Camp David, the likelihood of the conference reaching positive results far exceeds the likelihood of its failure.

The paper says that informed U.S. sources have told the paper's political correspondent that the chances of the conference reaching limited results have risen from 50 percent to 70 percent, following the discussions of the first 3 days.

The paper adds that the three leaders--As-Sadat, Carter and Begin--do not leave any subjects pending at the end of their meetings but try to reach definite views on each subject. Moreover, they sometimes rediscuss one subject again and again until the positions of the three sides become completely clear.

The paper says that the three leaders have abandoned all the engagements which restrict their meetings or limit their time because the discussions between the three leaders are expected to continue until the end of this week at least.

AS-SADAT MEETS TWICE WITH WEIZMAN ON 9 SEP

NC110606Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0006 GMT 11 Sep 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 10 September--In Monday's editions the newspaper AL-AHRAM reports that President Anwar as-Sadat held two meetings on Saturday with the Israeli defense minister and member of the Israeli delegation to the Camp David conference. The paper reports that the first meeting with Weizman lasted 35 minutes and the second 45 minutes.

DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAY SLIGHT PROGRESS ACHIEVED

NC091036Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 9 Sep 78 NC

[Text] Diplomatic sources today said, in Maryland where the Camp David summit conference is being held, that the discussions which President Carter had with President as-Sadat and the Israeli prime minister, Menahem Begin, have achieved progress in connection with some of the matters which were discussed at the Camp David meetings.

The sources said, with strong reservations, that it can be assumed that it has been possible to achieve some progress in connection with some of the questions discussed although the amount of this progress differs from one subject and another.

The same diplomatic sources have said that there are still some difficulties which President Carter, President as-Sadat and Menahem Begin must overcome during their upcoming talks.

CAIRO RADIO REPORTS 9 SEPTEMBER POWELL STATEMENT

NC092045Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Sep 78 NC

[Text] The bilateral contacts between the Egyptian and U.S. delegations will be resumed tonight at Camp David. Official spokesman for the Camp David conference Jody Powell today announced that some progress has apparently been made concerning some topics raised at the tripartite summit conference, although some basic differences still exist on a number of other important issues which bar the way to a settlement in the Middle East.

Powell at the same time cautioned that the time has not yet come to speculate on the results of the Camp David discussions, although these discussions are now in their 4th day. He said that there is no basis for any speculations about the final results which may be produced by the conference. Powell said that Presidents as-Sadat and Carter and Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin are holding today a review of the discussions which have been held so far for two reasons: The first reason is the Sabbath holiday for Begin and the second is that the discussions have reached a stage in which it is better to review what has been achieved so far.

Asked whether it is imperative to solve all remaining differences before the conference concludes its work, the official spokesman said: It is not possible to view matters in this way. Asked whether contacts have taken place between the three presidents and any other foreign president, he said that he knows nothing about such contacts. As far as the United States is concerned, the U.S. President has done no such thing.

Asked about the likelihood that the talks will be resumed at another level after the Camp David conference, Powell said: There has not yet been any agreement on such a move.

The spokesman said that no date has been set for the conclusion of the talks and that the three sides are showing interest in continuing the talks as long as there is a constructive objective behind this action.

Powell was asked whether it is imperative to achieve a solution concerning all the principal relations [as heard, presumably differences] prior to the conclusion of the conference. He said that he does not want to issue a verdict by which matters will be judged. Powell indicated that the achievement of progress in some matters depends on other issues that need to be solved.

PRESS COMMENTS ON CAMP DAVID, 9 SEPTEMBER

NC0908419Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 9 Sep 78 NC

[Excerpts] Today's Cairo papers highlight the news of the tripartite summit conference meetings currently taking place at Camp David. The papers devote considerable space on their front and other pages to reports on the conference and to observers' expectations from its discussions.

In banner headlines the papers say that the Camp David discussions between President as-Sadat, President Carter and Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin have dealt with all aspects of the Middle East problem and that the momentum of the meetings increased when it was decided that they should continue during the weekend.

The papers report observers' assertions that President Carter is determined that progress should be made during the Camp David discussions.

The Cairo papers also report the news of the fierce fighting which broke out in the southern and eastern parts of Beirut between Syrian and rightist militia forces at the same time as Israeli planes were violating Lebanese airspace and Israeli naval gunboats were carrying out a series of suspicious operations near the Lebanese coast--a matter which was described by diplomatic observers as confirmation of Israeli threats to intervene in Lebanon if the fighting between the Syrians and the rightist militia continues.

The papers report the developments of the situation in Iran, where martial law has been declared in Tehran and in 11 other towns, and a dusk-to-dawn curfew imposed on Tehran as of last night in the wake of the mammoth demonstration in which 100,000 demonstrators participated. The demonstrators roamed the streets of Tehran, shouting antiregime slogans.

The newspaper AL-AHRAM today comments on one of the important dimensions in the Camp David summit discussions. It is the Palestinian dimension in the ideas and alternatives submitted to the conference by the United States. The paper says that despite the fact that details on the U.S. proposals have not been announced, the thing everyone expects from the United States is that its proposals should be compatible with Egypt's assertions on the need that the Palestinian people should enjoy all their rights, in accordance with principles that have been approved by Carter in the past.

The paper adds: A study of the U.S. stand on the Palestinian issue indicates that the discussions which have taken place on the issue cannot be separated from the Camp David discussions because the latter are the climax of the efforts that are being exerted by the United States--efforts which have developed to the role of a full partner in the peace process.

The United States had committed itself to the Aswan formula after the talks which took place between As-Sadat and Carter on 4 January. In these talks, points of view were identical, even in relation to the Palestinian issue. On this basis, Egypt expects the United States to endeavor to make its proposals a practical translation of the principle endorsed by Carter in Aswan--the principle which Israel must endorse if it wants real peace. This peace, according to Carter, cannot be achieved unless basic principles are acknowledged. Foremost of these principles is an Israeli withdrawal from Arab territories, solving all aspects of the Palestinian problem, recognizing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and enabling the Palestinians to participate in determining their future.

Concluding its commentary, the paper affirms that since these are the principles which the United States has acknowledged, then its proposals to the Camp David conference should be compatible with them, and by this it will be defining the necessary bases for a durable and just peace.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that Israel has seized the opportunity of the atmosphere of secrecy in Camp David and leaked to the information media proposals which it has attributed to the United States. By this action Israel aimed at influencing the conference activities in some form whereby the United States will admit that it had submitted these proposals or deny that it had submitted them--a matter which will affect the activities inside and outside the conference.

The paper says that those who are aware of the Israeli diplomatic maneuver believe that this will not be the first or the last of the maneuvers to which the Israeli side will be resorting. This is what President as-Sadat meant in his statement at Andrews Air Force Base, when he said, "There is no time for maneuvers."

Concluding its article, AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms that in the wake of the obstacles that had been placed in the road to peace, the situation in the area now does not tolerate new maneuvers, procrastinations or delays to win time and extend the negotiations. The situation requires decisive action to rescue and achieve peace before the final opportunity is lost. Maybe Israel realizes this.

CAIRO RADIO REPORTS ON CAMP DAVID, 8 SEPTEMBER

NC082107Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 Sep 78 NC

[Text] President Jimmy Carter this morning held a meeting with President as-Sadat. The meeting, which lasted 2 hours and 25 minutes, was attended by Hasan at-Tuhami and Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil. On the U.S. side, the meeting was attended by Mr Walter Mondale, Cyrus Vance, Harold Brown and Zbigniew Brzezinski.

In the afternoon a U.S.-Israeli meeting was held, attended by Vance, Brown and Brzezinski, and on the Israeli side by Moshe Dayan and 'Ezer Weizman. The meeting lasted 1 hour and 25 minutes. President Carter held a meeting with the U.S. side at noon today, attended by Vance and Brzezinski, at which they reviewed yesterday's discussions.

Jody Powell, the official spokesman of the Camp David conference, held his usual press conference this afternoon. He said that bilateral meetings will be held tonight between President Carter and President as-Sadat and between the U.S. President and Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin. Asked about the progress of the talks and whether there were bilateral meetings between As-Sadat and Begin, he said that he knows nothing about this and there were no advanced plans in this respect.

Asked if the three leaders will resume their meetings before Monday, Jody Powell said that there were no special plans for this and that a tripartite meeting will probably not be held before Monday.

The official spokesman declined to comment on whether the conference has made any progress and said that this is up to the people to assess. There are basic questions the conference is discussing and these are subject to serious negotiations.

On the U.S. role in the Camp David talks, Jody Powell said: The U.S. President has been actively participating in the talks and he has contributions to make. We have previously said that Carter would put forward informal proposals to help the talks. He then said said that the U.S. side primarily aims at helping the parties concerned to find a common ground for agreement. Jody Powell said that a news blackout is necessary in relation to the Camp David conference in order to enable the conference to achieve progress in the negotiations.

Further Report

NC090601Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2330 GMT 8 Sep 78 NC

[Text] At 1700 Friday, President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat held a meeting at his Camp David quarters with U.S. President Jimmy Carter. The meeting lasted 45 minutes. U.S. President Carter held a meeting at 2030 yesterday with Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin. The meeting lasted about 90 minutes. A U.S.-Egyptian meeting at ministerial level was held at 2100 Friday.

PRESS COMMENTS ON CAMP DAVID, 8 SEPTEMBER

NC080916Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 8 Sep 78 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-AHRAM today comments on the general framework of the Camp David summit conference and the atmosphere of secrecy shrouding the conference discussions.

The paper notes that the United States, through the arrangements it has made and the role it has planned for itself during the discussions, has carefully assured that the discussions are devoted to the historic task of determining the fate of the Middle East and indeed the fate of world peace. It is for this reason that President Carter has said: We will be completely isolated from the press and from the outside world, hoping that views will be exchanged in a constructive manner without the need for political demonstrations or for defending inflexible ideologies or positions.

Carter wants to reaffirm that the time has come for adopting difficult decisions, especially by Israel. This is evident in his statement in which he said: We will adopt important decisions, and we are working with our advisers in the quest for peace in the Middle East. Such peace can effectively contribute to the consolidation of world peace in the future.

The paper says that secrecy (?has a time limit), and in order for the U.S. role to be effective in the discussions, when the discussions are over, Washington should announce to the world the reality of the positions in Camp David. The world is yearning for the results of this opportunity, which might change the face of history, and it wants all the parties to face up to their responsibilities because of the large task they face in establishing a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East.

'Ali Hamdi al-Jammal has sent an article to the newspaper AL-AHRAM from Washington. The article occupies part of the newspaper's front page today. For his article, the writer chose the title, "The Results of Camp David Depend on the U.S. Position." The writer analyzes the positions of the parties to the conference on the basis that this is the only logical way to understand the expected possibilities of the tripartite meeting.

At the outset of his article, Al-Jammal notes that the eyes of the whole world are now focused on Camp David and the important meetings taking place there. Since President as-Sadat's historic trip to Jerusalem last November, no meeting on the Middle East problem has elicited such analysis, speculation and comment as has the Camp David meeting called for by U.S. President Carter.

The writer then analyzes Egypt's position. He emphasizes that Egypt went to Camp David with its position regarding peace known and very frankly and clearly declared. In its policy to attain peace, Egypt has gone as far as possible. When Egypt calls for the restoration of the Arab land and the Palestinian people's rights, it is not being obstinate or assuming; it is demanding historic and legal rights in complete accord with logic, right and justice. President as-Sadat's participation in the conference and his acceptance of President Carter's invitation is a new indication that he is reaffirming his concern for peace.

Regarding the Israeli position, the writer notes that it is certain and clear that Israel, under the leadership of Menahem Begin, has not risen to the level of the great event and the greater spirit with which President Anwar as-Sadat went to Jerusalem, despite all of Begin's statements about his concern for peace. Faced for the first time with a situation that could bring peace, Israel is putting obstacles in the path to peace because it wants land first and foremost. Aware that no one will agree with him on this attitude, Menahem Begin has been inventing excuses and reasons which compel him to reject the opportunity available to him to achieve peace for the people of Israel.

Menahem Begin did not go to Camp David to participate objectively and logically in achieving a peace agreement. He went there to seek to change his image before the U.S. people in particular and to attempt to win the propaganda campaign which he has often lost throughout the past 10 months.

Regarding the dimensions of the U.S. position, the chief editor of AL-AHRAM notes that the United States went to the meeting knowing beforehand that it is facing the Arab on the same level as that on which it is facing the Israeli, and that it is no longer capable of adopting a policy of complete partiality to Tel Aviv. The United States is attending the meeting within the framework of the commitment by three U.S. presidents that the United States will play a principal role in solving the problem in a just manner. Nixon made such a pledge, but the Watergate scandal blocked his way.

Concluding his analysis of the various positions, 'Ali Hamdi al-Jammal confirms the conviction of the observers that the only one who will not lose if the Camp David conference does not succeed is President Anwar as-Sadat. The ones who will lose are the U.S. President and the Israeli prime minister. This is because President as-Sadat no longer needs to emphasize to the world and the United States his true desire for peace. No matter how much effort his propaganda trumpets exert, if the conference fails Begin will not be able to attribute the failure to Anwar as-Sadat.

In its commentary today the newspaper AL-AKHBAR deals with the optimism and pessimism expressed about the conference. The paper asserts that there is no doubt that the conference will achieve a result. What is questionable, however, is the value and effectiveness of this result and whether it will be a positive, decisive result that will lead to the establishment of a just peace in the area or will be a mere declaration of principles and proposals on which an understanding is to be reached and negotiations to be held that thus enter into the vicious circle in which the situation has been trapped up to now. Will this result cover all points of dispute and conflict so that it will be acceptable and satisfactory to all the parties, or will it be favorable to one party and rejected by the other party?

AL-AKHBAR then refers to the warning by various world circles of the seriousness of the consequences of the failure of the conference. The paper says that this is the world's cry. It is a cry of warning and caution the world is addressing to the conference, believing it must be heard because it is a cry of the right in which President Carter believes and to which he has committed himself before the world.

On the basis of this belief by the U.S. President and the world's faith in truth hang the hope and optimism about the great conference. The prevailing conviction is that success is for saving peace and for the establishment of peace on the basis that the conference (?is the hope for) a decisive result, legitimate right and justice.

AL-AHRAM REPLIES TO PRAVDA CRITICISM OF SUMMIT

LD0713l2Y Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 6 Sep 78 pp 1, 10 LD

[Unattributed article]

[Text] It is not strange that the Soviet information media should once again reiterate their cheap lies and accusations just before the Camp David conference is convened, and that they should be joined in reiterating such lies by their agent trumpets in certain Arab countries.

These countries have drowned and are still drowning their people in a flood of empty slogans and side issues so that they can evade shouldering the responsibilities of a fierce political battle which Egypt alone is shouldering on the international level in the face of Israel and of those who support it.

PRAVDA has tried to portray the Camp David conference as an attempt at thwarting a comprehensive settlement, as the paper put it. It also tried to raise doubts as to the credibility of Egypt's representation of the Arab nation's interests.

But the USSR, which from the beginning has pursued a policy aimed at creating division between the Arab countries, when it chose to exercise the policy of giving and denying--giving arms to whoever it wishes and denying them to whoever it wishes--as it denied arms shipments to Egypt following the October 1973 war as a means of putting pressure on it so that it would be able to carve a role for itself in the area by which it could apply the same policies it is today applying in the Horn Of Africa, has no right today to talk about the interests of the Arab peoples.

Egypt's position will not be determined behind closed doors, as PRAVDA alleges. Egypt has declared its attitude regarding all aspects of the Middle East crisis, and events have proved that Egypt has abided and will continue to abide by its pledges and by every word it has said. It is ridiculous that the USSR should claim that it is more capable than Egypt of shouldering the trust of the Arab nation and of defending its interests. It is even more ridiculous and more stupid that it should once again reiterate its allusions and threats to the effect that it "will not stand by indifferently in the face of what is happening in the area neighboring the USSR and the socialist states."

Let us ask this question: Where did the Soviet Union stand before and after the 1967 War when Israel occupied more Arab lands by force? The USSR asked a price every time an appeal for assistance was made. It is still asking for a political and economic price even from the regimes it claims it is helping.

INA: NPUG PARTY ASSAILS CAMP DAVID TALKS

JN081643Y Baghdad INA in English 1625 GMT 8 Sep 78 JN

[Text] Cairo, 8 September--The Egyptian National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party declared its rejection to the present negotiations held by the head of the Egyptian regime with the Zionist entity in Camp David. A party statement issued on the convocation of the Camp David summit called for employing Egyptian political, economic and military potentials against the Zionist enemy and for realizing objectives of the Arab nation and her progressive and militant forces. An earlier message addressed by party leader Khalid Muhyi ad-Din to Anwar as-Sadat stressed that the Arab-Zionist conflict is a pan-Arab question whose solution lies with the Zionist enemy and steering all efforts for the fight against the Zionist expansionist aggression.

AS-SADAT TO EXTEND VISIT TO UNITED STATES

NC110600Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2350 GMT 10 Sep 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 10 September--In Monday's issue AL-AHRAM reports that President Anwar as-Sadat is expected to extend his visit to the United States 3 days after the conclusion of the Camp David conference in order to visit a number of universities and meet with members of the U.S. Congress.

It is also known that President as-Sadat will visit Salzburg, Austria, after his visit to the United States. He will spend 2 days in Salzburg during which he will meet with Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky.

PRESIDENT AS-SADAT TELEPHONES SHAH OF IRAN

NC0820047 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1955 GMT 8 Sep 78 NC

[Text] Camp David, 8 September--MENA has learned that President Anwar as-Sadat today telephoned from Camp David the shah of Iran, Emperor Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

EGYPT TO ATTEND ARAB LEAGUE MEETING IN BAGHDAD

[Text] Baghdad, 8 September--The Arab Republic of Egypt will take part in the meetings of the 25th session of the Arab Economic and Social Affairs Council to be held in Baghdad tomorrow. This was disclosed today by Dr 'Abd al-Muhsin Zalzalah, assistant Arab League secretary general for economic affairs. Dr Zalzalah said that he had received a cable to this effect from the Egyptian authorities.

Thus, all the Arab states will be represented at the meetings of the council.

KUWAITI AL-ANBA': ENVOYS TO TOUR ARAB CAPITALS

JN0906928Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0905 GMT 9 Sep 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 9 September--Following the return of Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat from Camp David, several Egyptian envoys will tour a number of Arab capitals to acquaint the officials there with the latest developments in the tripartite talks and with the outcome of the Camp David conference.

In its issue today the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA', quoting well-informed Egyptian sources, reports that in his messages to certain Arab leaders before his departure to Washington, President as-Sadat stressed the need for a unified Arab stand to confront [limuwajahat] the outcome of the Camp David summit and to achieve integrated coordination among the Arab countries.

These sources added that the Egyptian president will commission Vice President Husni Mubarak, Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali with this mission.

YAR PRESIDENT'S REPRESENTATIVE ARRIVES IN CAIRO

NC1022467 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2226 GMT 10 Sep 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 10 September--The YAR president's personal representative 'Abdallah Humran arrived in Cairo tonight for a several-day visit to Egypt. He said upon his arrival that his visit to Cairo is part of a tour during which he has visited a number of gulf states and has handed letters to the heads of these states from YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salim dealing with the current Arab situation.

KUWAITI PAPER ON JORDANIAN, IRAQI MILITARY MOVEMENTS

NC0910511Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1026 GMT 9 Sep 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 9 September--In a dispatch from Amman citing informed sources there, the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN says that Jordan has conveyed to Iraq and some other Arab states its fears of an Israeli blow against Jordan in order to put pressure on Syria and defeat it without clashing with it--through the isolationist forces.

The paper says the Jordanian Army Command has moved its armored units from the areas of Al-Jufur and Al-Mafraq to the Jordan Valley, in particular to the Irbid area, near the Syrian borders. It adds that Iraq has also begun amassing forces on the Jordanian borders.

Quoting an eyewitness, the paper says that hundreds of Iraqi tanks were seen moving toward Ar-Rutsah area under the cover of ground and mobile antiaircraft missiles.

AL-WATAN says His Majesty King Husayn went to Britain on the advice of Syria to be close to the international and U.S. scene in the event of an Israeli aggression against his country.

PRIME MINISTER BADRAN VISITS ARMY COMMAND

JN0913072Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Sep 78 JN

[Text] Prime Minister and Defense Minister Mudar Badran this morning visited the General Command of the Jordanian Army and Armed Forces. During the visit, the prime minister and the commander in chief discussed development projects. The meeting was attended by the minister of public works, the chief of staff and a number of senior officers.

Crown Prince Visits Command

JN0919122Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Sep 78 JN

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Husan, the regent, this afternoon visited the general command of the Armed Forces and met with His Excellency Lt Gen Sharif Zayo ibn Shakir, the commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

Saudi Paper on Visits

NC1010111Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0930 GMT 10 Sep 78 NC

[Text] Riyadh, 10 September--The Jordanian front facing occupied Palestine has been the scene of important military meetings. Reporting this today, the Saudi newspaper AL-JAZIRAH says that Crown Prince Hasan ibn Talal, King Husayn's deputy, has held an important meeting with Jordanian Armed Forces Commander Maj Gen Zayo ibn Shakir. It says Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran also held a meeting with the members of the Jordanian Armed Forces General Command. These two meetings, the paper adds, were held in the forward positions of the Jordanian front. This coincides with reports by travelers from the occupied West Bank confirming huge Israeli concentrations on the Jordanian border.

AMMAN RADIO VIEWS U.S., ISRAELI AIMS AT CAMP DAVID

JN091943Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Sep 78 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Camp David talks are marked by three main phenomena. First, the United States is trying to halt the information media in view of the danger to the conference of statements. The United States believes that the war of words and statements lead to misunderstandings and exacerbate the political stands and psychological atmosphere in the Middle East. For this reason the Carter administration has resorted to the method of closed meetings and is withholding reports from U.S. and world information media at this stage of negotiations.

Second, the United States appears to want to talk at the Camp David negotiations under a heavy news blackout so that its image will not be shaken abroad or in the eyes of the parties to the conflict in the Middle East and because it believes this kind of negotiation may lead to the desired results.

Third, it is certain that the Carter administration has its own views which it may put forward to the Egyptian and Israeli sides as a compromise between the two stands. The United States hopes that its views may become a starting point for a peace dialog if the U.S. administration succeeds in narrowing the differences between As-Sadat and Begin.

We believe that by participating in the Camp David summit Israel aims at two things: First, to change its intransigent image in the world and to try to win in the propaganda war where Israel suffered its most important defeat as a result of meeting As-Sadat's initiative with its well-known intransigent stand. Second, Israel is trying to achieve its aim of dragging Egypt into a bilateral agreement that would get Egypt out of the Arab front and freeze its role in the Arab-Zionist conflict. Israel is also trying to satisfy Egypt and the United States with a vague statement of principles which Israel will foil through detailed talks of subcommittees which might be formed by the Camp David summit.

At this point we should remind our people of His Majesty King Husayn's warning in his latest speech on the first day of the 'Id al-Fitr feast against vague formulas of principles which can be interpreted in various vague and flexible ways and against Israeli maneuvers aimed at directing the Camp David talks to formal matters which have nothing to do with the substance of the Middle East crisis.

The question at this vague stage of the Camp David summit is: What is the Israeli stand toward the future of the occupied Palestinian land and toward the question of the Palestinian people which resulted from the establishment of Israel at the expense of the Palestinian land and rights? Will Israel continue to ignore the question of the Palestinian people and land and inalienable historical rights? Will Israel continue to consider the Palestinian as an prab minority on the alleged land of the Torah, which Israel insists on keeping all of, ignoring its people and their legitimate rights which are internationally recognized? At Camp David will Israel continue to adhere to its outworn beliefs and mythological Torah dogmas? Or will Israel demand security as it is known at the international level and real guarantees for its existence, or will Israel persist in the idea of swallowing the identity of the Palestinian people and their land as a dogmatic guarantee for the continuation of its expansionist Zionist existence on Palestinian land and adjacent Arab territory?

In view of these factors which have become known to the whole world, Camp David might be the end of the matter concerning the initiatives of Carter and As-Sadat and the peace process which has been revolving in vicious circles for well over 18 months. The Camp David summit may be the beginning of a real action for peace. However, the required peace will not be achieved without solving the question of the Palestinian people, their land and rights, and an end to Israeli aquisition of land by force. The question is no longer one of the form or framework formula for the declaration of principles as much as it is that of Israel's relinquishment of its expansionist aggressive course of the Zionist creed and recognition of the rights of others, foremost of whom are the Palestinian Arab people.

AR-RA'IY: U.S. MUST DEFINE POSITION AT CAMP DAVID

JN100739Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 10 Sep 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Commenting on the U.S. role at Camp David and its position regarding the [presumably Arab] cause, the newspaper AR-RA'IY asks: Will the Camp David conference succeed at the expense of the just Arab demands, or at the expense of the Palestinian cause, land, people and historical and firm rights recognized by the international community? Or will the conference succeed by means of middle-of-the-road solutions between Israel, which is occupying Arab territories, and the Arabs, who are suffering from this occupation? The United States alone can answer these questions.

The United States must shoulder its responsibilities toward the area and the world by defining its position and by declaring which side it is supporting. Is it with the aggressors or with right, justice and peace? Without a clear definition of Washington's position, we cannot reassure ourselves about what is taking place, despite the optimism of those speaking on behalf of the tripartite summit in the United States.

PRESS VIEWS BEGIN POSITION ON RESOLUTION 242

JN091613Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 9 Sep 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] The Jordanian papers still give priority to Camp David news and reaction: Today the papers concentrate on news agency reports on Menahem Begin's proposal to consider Security Council Resolution 242 a declaration of principles. Commenting on this AR-RA'IY says:

In our assessment this course indicates an attitude toward the vicious circles in which the contacts and mediation efforts have revolved between the Israeli interpretation of Resolution 242 and the logical interpretation which is consistent with the spirit of this resoltuion. This course also indicates bankruptcy and an attempt to achieve a face-saving end to the conference rather than an indication of success in laying down a sound basis for the negotiation of a just peace.

The Israeli leaders, who to date have succeeded in evasions and maneuvers under the pretext of differences over interpretation of Resolution 242, will not lack tricks to hinder any practical agreement pertaining to the principles of this resolution. The question is not one of a declaration of principles or even agreement on them. The question is one of Israeli commitment to implementing these principles and then a U.S. commitment to exert pressure on Israel if it rejects this commitment. The question is also one of the magnitude of Arab weight, which must be made clear.

On the same subject AD-DUSTUR says: What is being said of Begin's call for considering Security Council Resolution 242 as a declaration of principles without interpreting it discloses a new Israeli maneuver which is overtly reasonable but tacitly a prevarication.

The paper says: It is true that this resolution in itself is a declaration of principles. The principles it outlines have only one interpretation, which is suggested in the stages the resolution passed through at the Security Council, its French translation and the concurrence of U.S. international jurists. This interpretation provides for withdrawal from all occupied Arab territory. Thus, the imperatives of the call for considering Resolution 242 a declaration of principles are recognition of the only interpretation of the resolution and not stipulations to avoid its interpretation.

Proceeding from this, if Begin is true in his proposal he must commit himself to the interpretation on which the world concurred so that there will be no circumvention of its meaning or fabrications or abnormal interpretations in the implementation of the resolution. The mere proposal to consider the resolution a declaration of principles while insisting on avoiding its interpretation is a formal maneuver aimed at portraying Israel as a country making steps toward peace, although it does not want to recognize the content of the resolution.

AD-DUSTUR says: Throughout the Egyptian-Israeli talks prior to the Camp David summit Begin was very concerned about calling for a clear interpretation of the meaning of peace. He called for considering the concept of peace as open borders and mutual economic, cultural and diplomatic relations. Now Begin is stipulating that Resolution 242 not be interpreted but only be considered as a declaration of principles. Thus Begin is seeking to specify every iota of the gains Israel will make as a result of the establishment of peace while he publicly seeks to evade specifying the commitments Israel must make in return for peace. In conclusion the paper says: Security Council Resolution 242 is primarily substance, not a slogan. It is no use raising the slogan of the resolution without clear and public recognition of its content.

Under the headline "The Prayers of Guns and Tanks," AL-AKHBAR writes: Yesterday Israeli information media spoke of the prayers which the president of their state, Yizhaq Navon, said for the success of the Camp David talks. The day before yesterday news agencies reported the statement of their prime minister, Begin, at the party held by the leaders of the Jewish community in New York. In his statements Begin expressed surprise at the Arab demand for withdrawal from the West Bank.

At a time when the peace deliberations are underway at Camp David, Israeli aircraft have been conducting unusual reconnaissance sorties in Lebanese airspace. As usual, these sorties are in preparation for a new aggression. AL-AKHBAR says: Naturally we cannot predict precisely what Israel is planning. However, we are sure that Israel is not taking seriously what is going on in Camp David. We are sure that Israel is accustomed only to the policy of fait accompli. The paper asks: Does Israel want to confront the Camp David summit with a new fait accompli? Will all the Arabs pay attention to what is going on behind the confrontation lines?

BOMB SETS EDUCATION MINISTER'S OFFICE ON FIRE

NC081643Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1615 GMT 8 Sep 78 NC

[Text] An explosion took place this afternoon in the office of Education Minister As'ad Rizq, in the UNESCO Palace in Beirut, setting the contents of the office on fire. One of the office walls collapsed. The fire destroyed the files of the minister.

It has been learned that the leftist parties and the national and Nationalist Front parties issued statements yesterday which contained threats and a denunciation of Minister Rizq's decision to postpone the official examinations in view of current security conditions.

Information from the Internal Security Forces indicates that three young men and a young woman entered the building carrying plastic water containers. They proceeded to the office of Minister Rizq on the pretext of filling the containers with water. They placed an explosive charge and incendiary materials which caused the explosion.

According to the same information, the three young men and the young woman arrived in a car on which a cedar was painted. This indicates that the car either belonged to an official department or that the picture of the cedar was painted on it for deception purposes.

Al-Huss Condemns Incident

NC081856Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Sep 78 NC

[Text] Commenting on the explosion which took place this afternoon in the office of Minister of Education Dr As'ad Rizq, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has said the following:

We denounce this criminal action and so does every honest citizen. This type of action is committed only by persons who harbor evil against the homeland. This type of action also strikes the state's march during a delicate phase which many times forces officials to adopt decisions which may not please some people, although they are consistent with the public interest and present circumstances.

Prime Minister Al-Huss added: Those who believe that such actions could deter the authority from adopting appropriate decisions and measures are wrong.

We consider the attack against the office of our dear colleague an attack against all of us and against the authority we represent and the responsibility it shoulders during a most critical situation.

SARKIS, BUTRUS, AL-HUSS DISCUSS SECURITY SITUATION

NC091201Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 9 Sep 78 NC

[Text] President Ilyas Sarkis held a meeting at the Presidential Palace at 1130 today attended by Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus. The discussion during the meeting dealt with the general conditions in the country and the developments in the security situation. Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss joined the meeting at 1200. In addition to studying the measures to deal with the security situation, the conferees reviewed the results of the diplomatic contacts which are taking place to tackle the situation in southern Lebanon. They also discussed the question of the renewal of the mandate of the Arab Deterrent Forces and the possibility of raising the issue at the Arab League Council meeting next Tuesday in Cairo.

The meeting lasted until 1300. After the meeting Minister Butrus said: We have reviewed the latest diplomatic reports we received on the Camp David meetings and everything connected with this subject.

Asked whether there are contacts with Damascus to deal with the security situation, Minister Butrus said: Contacts with Damascus on the security level are continuing. At any rate, this was not the main subject we discussed. Contacts are continuing through the Arab Deterrent Forces Command and under the direction of President Sarkis.

Asked whether Lebanon has made a decision regarding the renewal of the Arab Deterrent Forces mandate, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss said today: I have already said on more than one occasion that Lebanon will need the Arab Deterrent Forces until the Lebanese Army is rebuilt on a sound and solid national basis. This is self-evident, because the Arab Deterrent Forces came to Lebanon, in the first place, to fill the vacuum left by the disintegration of the Lebanese Army when Lebanon was in the stage of bitter armed conflict. How can we think of dispensing with the Arab Deterrent Forces at this state when we know that the reasons for their presence still exist? We have not yet been able to complete the rebuilding of the army in the desired manner, nor have we yet been able to achieve a solution to any of the problems that led to the outbreak of events in 1975. Today we are facing a situation in which all the reasons that caused the crisis still exist, and subsequently the results of the crisis have been added to its causes. The social, political and economic results of the crisis are no less dangerous to the situation than its causes.

This is why we say that we still need the Arab Deterrent Forces and we will continue to need them until we complete the rebuilding of the Lebanese Army in a manner that will enable it to replace these forces and take over the security role they assume. This is also the reason for the great importance we attach to the drawing up of a new army law. We consider that the implementation of this law constitutes a principal step on the way to the rebuilding of the army on the desired basis. The Arab Deterrent Forces will not stay 1 more hour after we complete the rebuilding of the army. This is our position, and it is also the position of the officials in Syria. This position is based on the Arab decision in the Riyadh and Cairo summit conferences, which was issued in response to a general Lebanese demand and in response to a request by President Sarkis.

VOICE OF LEBANON ON SYRIAN SHELLING OF BEIRUT AREAS

NC110629Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0515 GMT 11 Sep 78 NC

[Text] At 2330 last night, the situation became worse in Al-Ashrafiyah, 'Ayn ar-Rummanah, Badaru, At-Tayyunah and At-Tahwitah when Badaru Street and the area surrounding the Palace of Justice came under gunfire. Soon, shells began to fall on many eastern areas coming from the Syrian forces positions in Hursh Thabit, Sinn Al-Fil, Burj Rizq and the Shi'ya building in Al-Ashrafiyah.

Security sources have said that the Syrian artillery emplacements in the western area participated in the shelling as well. The shelling was concentrated on Adib Izhaq Street, Hotel Dieu Street, the (?Italian) quarter, and the As-Sufi council and army posts in the Palace of Justice area.

The inhabitants hurried to bomb shelters, where they spent a difficult night because of the continuous shelling. The shelling stopped at 0600 today.

Despite the precautionary measures taken by the inhabitants, there were 17 civilian casualties in 'Ayn ar-Rummanah and 8 were wounded in Al-Ashrafiyah.

The hospitals in the eastern area have reported that Mikha'il 'Isa has succumbed to his wounds and that some persons have left the hospitals after their wounds were dressed.

We have received a report indicating that Syrian soldiers have tried to infiltrate into the Badaru-Hursh al-Kfuri area from the At-Tayyunah area. They were repulsed by the Lebanese forces after suffering some casualties. As a result, a fire broke out in the George Majdalani building in Hursh al-Kfuri.

Damage has been caused to buildings in the areas which were shelled throughout the night.

Shelling Stops in Beirut

NC110755Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0715 GMT 11 Sep 78 NC

[Text] Relative calm prevails now in the eastern and southern parts of Beirut following a stormy night during which several artillery rounds were fired. One citizen was killed and 25 others were wounded.

The shells came from the Syrian artillery emplacements. It has been noted that the shelling was concentrated on the Palace of Justice area in a Syrian attempt to disrupt communications between 'Ayn ar-Rummanah and Al'Ashrafiyah.

It is worth noting that in the past 48 hours the Arab Deterrent Forces Command has not issued its customary statement since it has felt that the public no longer believes its flimsy excuses.

INA: PRESIDENT SARKIS WANTS TO FORM NEW CABINET

JN091905Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Sep 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 9 September--Informed sources here today said Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis has become convinced of the need for a new cabinet with a political character. An INA correspondent says that President Sarkis wants the new cabinet to include moderates of all factions to shoulder the responsibilities of the coming stage. He says a series of moves will begin in Lebanon the day after tomorrow, Monday, concerning the position of the current cabinet and accord.

VOICE OF LEBANON: U.S. MILITARY AID DISCUSSED

NC081236Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1115 GMT 8 Sep 78 NC

[Text] The U.S. military attache in Beirut, (?Colonel Pritchard), met with the army commander, Victor Khuri, today. The head of the Second Branch, Maj Johnny 'Abdu, attended the meeting. They discussed U.S. military aid to Lebanon and arrangements pertaining to the visit of the Lebanese military mission to Washington at the end of this month. A consignment of U.S. weapons is expected in Beirut today.

QNA: PAPER REPORTS EXECUTION OF SIX PHALANGISTS

NC051232Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1035 GMT 9 Sep 78 NC

[Text] Doha, 9 September--In today's edition, the Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB quotes Lebanese sources close to the Phalangist Party as saying that certain prominent military and political members of the party have been secretly executed after being convicted of working to divide the party. The sources add that when the bodies were handed over to their relatives, the Phalangist Party leadership claimed they had been killed by the shelling of the Syrian forces operating with the Arab Deterrent Forces.

The same sources told AL-'ARAB that the decision to carry out the executions was taken last Thursday against six persons, four of them party politicians and two military party members, and that the decision was taken by the Phalangist Party leader, Pierre al-Jumayyil, personally after these persons had protested against the stands and [word indistinct] of the party, which had been compelling the Lebanese citizens in the eastern area of Beirut to pay under the threat of arms.

The same sources further add that the recent resignations of two parliamentary deputies from the Phalangist Party were prompted by Al-Jumayyil's refusal to stop the execution of these six people.

PHALANGIST LEADER ON AL-ASAD'S STATEMENT

NC101830Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1615 GMT 10 Sep 78 NC

[Excerpt] Asked his views on a statement made by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad dealing with Syria's initiatives in Lebanon, Phalangist Party leader Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil said: Although I have not read the statement, I doubt that President Al-Asad has been fully informed about the development of the Syrian initiative in Lebanon. The initiative has changed its course and has lost its civilized character. Grave losses have been sustained by not only Lebanon, its people and economy but also by Syria, which has lost its civilized role, not to mention its own character, due to the deviation of its initiative.

Therefore, there is reason to doubt that the Syrian president has been fully informed of the real situation, including the actions of the regular forces in shelling residential quarters in specific areas, opening sniper fire and assaulting and insulting the people. None of these are actions befitting a civilized initiative or a regular force.

SHAM'UN SAYS DETERRENT FORCES MANDATE WILL NOT BE RENEWED

NC101211Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1115 GMT 10 Sep 78 NC

[Text] At its extraordinary session on Monday the Lebanese cabinet will discuss, among other questions, whether or not to request the renewal of the Arab Deterrent Forces mandate in Lebanon.

Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss had paved the way for this, prior to the Arab League Council meeting at ministerial level, by saying that Lebanon still needs the Deterrent Forces until it builds and equips a strong army.

Commenting on the Al-Huss statement, former President Camille Sham'un today accused Al-Huss of defeatism and stressed that the renewal of the Deterrent Forces mandate will not materialize.

LEBANESE NATIONALIST STATEMENT CONDEMNS CAMP DAVID

JN0819?6Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1804 GMT 8 Sep 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 8 September--The Lebanese Nationalist Movement has called for a comprehensive pan-Arab confrontation of all capitulationist solutions, for striking at those who follow the capitulationist path and for blocking the roads toward such solutions.

In a statement issued today after its weekly meeting, the Central Political Council of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement said it believed that the (?results) of the Camp David conference would be a new military and political escalation of the Lebanese situation taking the form of direct Israeli interference to revive the issue of southern Lebanon in an attempt to strike at the nationalist existence and to liquidate the Palestinian revolution. The statement adds that all indications point to an eventual renewal of the explosive situation in the south.

The statement refers to the memorandum Lebanon sent to the United Nations and says that the memorandum reflects the official Lebanese stand on the Zionist aggression. The statement adds that the memorandum does not point out the extent of the Israeli occupation along the southern border and does not take an official stand toward the forces of the traitors Sa'd Haddad and Sami Shidyaq in the south. Rather, the memorandum regards these forces as a fait accompli. The statement says that such an issue calls for a firm stand by those who are concerned with the protection of Lebanon and urges them to force the authorities to follow the right methods in dealing with the fateful issues in Lebanon.

FIJI CONTINGENT REPLACES FRENCH FORCES IN TYRE

NC101725Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1615 GMT 10 Sep 78 NC

[Text] Several meetings were held this morning at UN forces headquarters in An-Naqurah to discuss the position of the forces in south Lebanon, particularly following the changes which took place yesterday when the French forces withdrew from Tyre barracks and were replaced by the 150-man Fijian contingent.

A source at the UN command has said that a meeting will be held Tuesday with the Fijian deputy prime minister and attended by General Erskine. The Fijian official will meet tomorrow with the Lebanese Army commander and officials. A source at the UN command said that the purpose of today's meetings was to discuss the question of gunmen who infiltrated behind the lines of the UN forces.

Fiji's Ganilu Arrives

NC101418Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Sep 78 NC

[Text] Penaia Ganilu, the deputy prime minister of Fiji, arrived in Beirut at about 1615 today for a 3-day visit, during which he will inspect the Fijian battalion serving with UNIFIL in the south.

NORWEGIAN UNIFIL FORCES MOVE POSITIONS

NC100634Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0515 GMT 10 Sep 78 NC

[Text] Reports from the south indicate that the Norwegian forces yesterday failed in their second attempt to move to Marj 'Uyun and Al-Khiyam. The Norwegians have reduced their numbers in Shab'a and most of them have been moved by helicopter to Ibil As-Saqy

AL-ASAD GRANTS INTERVIEWS ON UPCOMING FRG VISIT

With FRG Television

JN092104Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 9 Sep 78 JN

[Text of President Hafiz al-Asad's interview with FRG television on his forthcoming official visit to the FRG on 11 September; date and place not given--read by announcer]

[Text] Question: Mr President, your visit to Bonn is the first visit undertaken by a Syrian head of state to the Federal Republic of Germany. What are your main hopes and expectations from this visit?

Answer: I am visiting Germany at the invitation of the president. It is expected during this visit that we will exchange views on various topics of concern to the two countries.

Question: A few years ago relations between Damascus and Bonn were at best very poor, but they are now noticeably good and improving. Has the timing of your official visit to Bonn any relation to this good development?

Answer: The timing of the visit is not necessarily connected with the improvement of relations, but improved relations between the two countries helps make this visit possible.

Question: Will you please explain the most important points on the agenda that will be raised during the talks with the German Government?

Answer: Our talks will include international issues of common interest, the situation in the Middle East and bilateral relations. This is what I expect.

Question: Your Excellency, in November you will celebrate the eighth anniversary of your assumption of rule in Syria. Since then many important changes have taken place in Syria in particular, and the Middle East in general. What, in your opinion, is your most important accomplishment?

Answer: Perhaps much talk is needed to express what has taken place during this period, or even to point out the most important accomplishments. I can briefly sum up and say: Important internal developments have taken place in the field of applying and practicing democracy. Now we have legislative institutions directly elected by the people, and these have been practicing their complete legislative jurisdictions for 7 years.

We have elected institutions in every governorate in Syria, and these are exercising the daily executive affairs in the governorates. We have had important development in the field of our party work and got important results, regarding both quantity and quality. In addition, the National Progressive Front has been set up in Syria. This front includes all parties in the country led by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party--the party that sparked off the revolution in Syria.

In the field of development we have achieved positive things. We have an important development movement in the country, and during this period we have discussed new riches. We are working to utilize them in the forthcoming stage. Of course, important and positive developments have taken place in the various educational and military fields, too. I do not want to go into details.

During these years the great accomplishments of the October War took place. This is considered the climax of accomplishments for Syria and the region as well because it represents the peak of struggle for liberty and the peak of struggle against occupation and aggression. Moreover, Syria's relations with the countries of the world have acquired a new character; in its dealings with the world's countries, Syria has opened its doors wide open and set up good cooperation relations that did not exist before. Thus, I have summed up prominent and important points for us that have taken place during the past years.

Question: Syria is a main member of the front of steadfastness and confrontation. It also vehemently opposes As-Sadat's steps toward what he calls the establishment of a peaceful esttlement with Israel. What is the alternative you recommend?

Answer: The alternative to As-Sadat's steps is a return to international legitimacy. As-Sadat's steps are not commensurate with international legitimacy and, therefore, do not help restore peace. Our viewpoint is opposed to that of many. Our viewpoint that As-Sadat's initiative served the cause of war more than the cause of peace. We want peace, and we work for it. We believe that this peace can never be achieved except within international legitimacy and through sincere and serious work to implement the UN resolutions under UN auspices and through international peace conferences.

What is taking place now and since As-Sadat visited Israel is something else, far removed from international legitimacy and the trend required by this legitimacy. This is our opinion in Syria and in the front of steadfastness. This is also the line that was followed before As-Sadat visited Israel.

Question: In Lebanon the Arab Deterrent Forces, of which the Syrian forces constitute the largest party, have been criticized recently. These forces are in Lebanon to keep law and order. Now these forces are facing the Christian militias, a matter which those who criticize Syria allege indicates that Syria is taking sides. What is your reply to this criticism? Would you please give a brief assessment of the general situation in Lebanon?

Answer: We entered Lebanon in response to requests and calls for help which we received from hundreds of families, from thousands of Lebanese citizens and from various quarters and by agreement with the legitimate authorities in Lebanon. As is well known, our entry into Lebanon cost us great material and human sacrifices. At that time, as is well known, we faced political and several multifaceted difficulties. Despite this we did not hestiate to respond to the requests for help we received. We saw that we had a fraternal and humanitarian duty toward our brothers in Lebanon. We felt that it was inevitable to fulfill that duty. We could not stand by and watch the massacres which were taking place every day in Lebanon. We hastened to enter to stop these massacres and the bloodshed.

As I said, we bore much hard work and great sacrifices. After that security was established, and our forces were placed at the disposal of the legitimate authorities. Every time we were asked we offered all support to the legitimate authorities.

As a matter of fact, Israel managed to fish certain militia members who are now inciting disturbances. The mission of the Arab Deterrent Forces in Lebanon is to confront anyone who tries to incite disturbances. Some of these militias, which are inciting disturbances, are ignoring the legitimate authorities and security requirements in order to impose their power on all Lebanon.

The Syrian forces, which are the backbone of the deterrent forces, are working for security. They are not facing the militias as the question says. The militias are confronting the deterrent forces. We have no interests in Lebanon. If the Lebanese were to meet now and agree among themselves to say to us: "Brothers in Syria, we can do without your help," we would leave Lebanon immediately. Should the Lebanese Government ask us now to leave Lebanon, we would do so immediately.

Not only this, I want to say frankly that we are making constant multifaceted sacrifices in Lebanon. It is in our interest in Syria not to continue to make these sacrifices. One thing dictates that we stay, that is, our fraternal humanitarian feelings toward the Lebanese people, feelings of duty to continue stopping the fighting and the massacres in Lebanon.

If what certain people say is true, that our stand is against Lebanon, why do not the Lebanese factions tell us: We no longer need you. In this case we would let them rest at ease, if they are not already at ease. We also would be at ease to have our forces return to Syria. If the Lebanese Government told us that by our presence we are not giving them help, in this case also we would relieve them and be relieved. However, those who are inciting riots do not represent the various sects of Lebanon nor do they represent legitimacy. They do not even represent the rightwing in Lebanon or the left. They neither represent the Christians nor the Moslems.

As I said, some of the militia leaders have fallen into the Israeli trap. I think that some of them are not satisfied with the course they are pursuing. The details of the situation in Lebanon require a long time, but, in short, if we drew a map of the people in Lebanon, we would find that those who are confronting the deterrent forces and who do not want security to be established do not represent the Moslems or the Christians. They only represent certain militias. The question does not concern us. Lebanon does not agree that these militias impose their authority on it. The Moslems, the Christians and even the Maronites do not agree that these militias impose their authority, particularly they do not want to impose this authority by force. [sentence as heard]

Everybody knows that Sulayman Franjiyah was president of Lebanon and was the main leader in the Lebanese Front which claimed to represent the Maronite community. President Franjiyah differed with them and dissociated himself from them for the fundamental reason that they did not want the Lebanese State and the Lebanese authorities to develop and to assume their normal responsibilities. President Franjiyah was of the opinion that after the fighting has ended and after security has been restored the opportunity must be given to the Lebanese State, with the help of the deterrent forces, to tackle the issues as it sees fit.

Others who confront us now, or some of them at least, did not agree with Sulayman Franjiyah and therefore he dissociated himself from them and said: I cannot agree with you. You prevent the legitimate authority from exercising its role, you prevent the Lebanese Government departments from carrying out their normal activities and you continue imposing taxes on the citizens, which is the government's work and not yours. Therefore, Sulayman Franjiyah dissociated himself from them.

There are other personalities from Lebanon who see eye to eye with Franjiyah. There are the Maronites, the Orthodox, the various Moslem sects, the various parties and numerous others. These have the same opinion of the militias which oppose the deterrent forces.

There are numerous statements issued daily by these personalities, including the Christian clergy. I wish that you could show on your television some of the statements issued by some of the Christian clergy, especially the statements issued by Hakim, the Greek Catholic patriarch and the statement of Greek Orthodox Patriarch Iliyas IV. From these two statements the people in Germany and elsewhere could get a picture of the situation in Lebanon. I do not want to give more examples, but I mentioned Franjiyah as the only example because he was a president of the Lebanese Republic.

We are sorry and unhappy with the criticism of others. I think that I can readily say that they are not objective if they are really convinced of what they say. If they are not convinced of what they say, we do not take much notice of them because the issue involves another political background. [as heard] I direct my speech to those who criticize us out of conviction. I say to them: Come to Lebanon and meet with parties from the left and from the right, with Christians and Moslems and ask them their opinion of the Lebanese situation and the role of the deterrent forces and Syria and then write in light of the [illegible] you will form. This is what we ask our critics to do.

Perhaps we have the right to say that the civil war in Lebanon has continued for 2 years and difficulties are still ahead for the Lebanese people. Is there any country in the world which sacrificed anything for the sake of Lebanon as Syria did? Are those who are criticising us now prepared to offer sacrifices for the sake of Lebanon as we do? Of course not. We have found that nobody in the world is prepared to offer sacrifices for the sake of Lebanon as we in Syria are doing. I also say that I have not found anybody in the world who is prepared to offer sacrifices for the sake of Lebanon. This has been confirmed by the Lebanese people and by the leaders of the militias who are confronting us now. They confirmed this in the past and said that Syria was the one which showed understanding of the Lebanese situation and that Syria has offered sacrifices and sweat and blood when the whole world, including the friends of Lebanon, was satisfied with offering advice to Lebanon. Even during the recent trouble and during the confrontation between those militias and the Arab Deterrent Forces and particularly between the militias and the Syrian forces, some of their leaders stood up more than once to admit that Syria's stand has been brotherly and that Lebanon is grateful to Syria.

Here I no not want to mention names, but if you go back to their statements you will find them. One of their prominent leaders, the president of the Phalangist Party, said: There is no use for us to win the world and lose Syria. I say again that there is nobody who is ready to make any sacrifices for Lebanon as Syria has been and still is doing.

But despite all this and despite some difficulties which crop up daily and at a time when Israel is able to incite some individuals to create confrontations and troubles, though limited, I say that I am not very pessimistic. What we wanted from everybody in Lebanon is for them to be aware of the interests of Lebanon, of their own interests as Lebanese citizens and their interests as a Lebanese state. We want security to be established in Lebanon. We are not and will not be one of the sides in Lebanon. We are a just arbitor and those who confront us are those who reject security, who try to create troubles and difficulties and those who try to oppose the legitimate Lebanese authorities and prevent them from exercising their duties.

We intend to assist the Lebanese State. If they do not want our help we will thank them and return our forces to Syria. But they know and we know that the circumstances and situation in Lebanon require our help. In accordance with our national and pan-Arab feelings, we continue to offer help.

We ask everybody to consult their consciences and their minds. They must serve the interests of Lebanon. We are with them in serving the Lebanese interests. Accordingly I am still highly optimistic and think that events will take their natural course and security will be restored in places which were exposed to trouble. I would like to say that the foreign propaganda is not realistic. I mean that it does not show the true events in Lebanon. It shows massacres and heavy fighting in Lebanon. The truth is not this. There were some clashes in the eastern sector of Beirut but they were limited. We tackled them and we will tackle them in the future. In the rest of the Lebanese territory the situation is stable to a great extent.

In southern Lebanon the situation is different; there is Israeli interference. Israel wants to impose its hegemony and prevent the Lebanese State from putting the regular Lebanese Army into southern Lebanon contrary to UN resolutions. Israel is imposing its control in the south. Any person who doubts this can ask the legitimate Lebanese authorities about this. I think that during the past 2 days the Lebanese Government has sent a memorandum to the Security Council complaining about the continued Israeli interference.

With DER SPIEGEL

JN1018Z42Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 10 Sep 78 JN

[Text of President Hafiz al-Asad's interview with the FRG magazine DER SPIEGEL on 6 September in Damascus on the occasion of his forthcoming visit to the FRG--read by announcer]

[Text] Question: Mr President, you have described the Camp David meeting as a new trap for the Arab nation. What is meant by calling the conference a trap?

Answer: The mistake is in the beginning. It is in As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem. This visit has upset the equation existing in the Middle East--even if just for a time. The danger lies particularly in this stage during which the defection happened and throughout which the defection may continue. The course followed by As-Sadat cannot acquire international legitimacy nor can it achieve peace. Peace has its factors and these are: the withdrawal from occupied Arab territories and the restoration of the Palestinian Arab people's rights.

No people in the world can say that peace is possible when there is continued occupation of part of their territory. No people can say that peace is possible when part of the people is displaced outside their homeland. Therefore, it is obvious that the peace factors must involve Israel's withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967 and affirmation of the rights of the Palestinian Arab people. These matters are not linked with President Anwar as-Sadat only. He is not the decision maker in regard to them, for the decision has a unanimous Arab character and no one Arab side can decide on peace. Therefore, I said that As-Sadat's step of going to Israel is a step in the direction of war more than in the direction of peace because it has caused an imbalance in the equation existing in the region, moved along a false path and relinquished the legitimate international umbrella.

It follows that As-Sadat can reach a short-lived separate agreement with Israel, but he will not be able to achieve peace. A separate agreement is one thing and the achievement of peace in the region is quite another thing. What is based on wrong is wrong. Therefore, the ramifications and steps which come within the framework of As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem cannot produce any good in the interest of peace. I refer to the visit to Jerusalem, the Ismailia meeting and the Camp David meeting.

What can come out of Camp David? There might result what might be called a declaration of general principles. I do not think that such a thing is useful because such general principles are better defined in the UN Security Council resolutions. There might result a declaration of general principles which will contain some definite points in which the United States will be committed.

This will further complicate the issue because it is already apparent that with the power of the Zionist influence in the United States, these definite points--if they are formulated--will not be just and therefore will be unacceptable to us.

In the United States, people talk, for instance, about what they call compromises. How can we accept compromises on territory? How can we share the Golan Heights with Israel and at the same time call that a compromise? How can I share the Palestinian right with Israel--I or the PLO--and call this a compromise? How can even As-Sadat divide Sinai between himself and Israel and call that a compromise? Such an expression--compromise--is popular in the United States, and the U.S. Government intends to do something good, perhaps, but the Zionist influence, with its strong power, prevents it. Therefore, we have nothing to justify optimism over the Camp David conference. The declaration of general principles which they may issue will include either ambiguous or defined things. These defined things will be against our interests, and that is why I said they will not be just. For example, if they define the territories, they will ask for a compromise; if they define peace, they will place everything in the interest of Israel while the general things will be ambiguous.

Question: Your Excellency, it is well-known that you were against As-Sadat's visit to the occupied territory from the beginning despite the fact that this visit was the first constructive experiment on the Arab side to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict, or do you view it differently and why?

Answer: I view it in a completely different manner. I have said that the visit was more a step toward war than it was toward peace because it has impaired the balance in the area. Such actions throughout history have never been the expression of the people's wishes. Therefore, it was a miscalculation in the light of human experiments. Let us now suppose that we put our emotions and thoughts aside and let us look at the human experiments throughout history. We find that this move has been completely condemned. All those who followed such a course throughout history have been condemned by their people and accused of treason.

Question: If As-Sadat succeeds now, will he not be a hero in your opinion?

Answer: No, I will not consider him a hero. There is another thing. When De Gaulle said no, the allies were not victors. They became victorious afterward. At that time, they were in a bad state.

Question: The majority of the Egyptian people are behind As-Sadat. Is this not true?

Answer: I do not like to go into such a situation, but as far as I know, and as an Arab citizen, the majority of the Egyptian people are not behind him. If Ash-Shadhili, who in practice led the October War, is against As-Sadat, how could the majority of the Egyptian people be behind him? The second thing is that he is doomed to failure. There are objective factors which cannot be ignored. Peace does not rely on any Arab side alone. Peace is a collective Arab decision. We are not with As-Sadat. Therefore, how can he succeed? I have said that he may be able to achieve a separate agreement, but this is not peace.

Question: But As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem has achieved two things: The first was that after this visit, many Western people began supporting the Arabs, and the second thing is that for the first time the Israeli people became divided due to Begin's intransigence. Part of the Israeli Army even demonstrated in the streets calling for peace. Do you not consider this a positive aspect of the As-Sadat visit to occupied Jerusalem?

Answer: In our view, the Western world has opened up to Israel now more than before the As-Sadat visit. If we compare the visits of Israeli officials to Western European countries a year before the As-Sadat visit and after the As-Sadat visit, we conclude that they have increased. Thus, this is part of the results of the As-Sadat visit.

Question: According to statistics, supporters of the Arabs have increased in America and the ratio supporting Israel has begun to diminish gradually.

Answer: Because As-Sadat's visit has presented the subject of peace in a distorted manner. Those who supported it, supported it on a distorted basis, including the Israeli opposition. The meaning of this is that after As-Sadat's visit, the people expected an agreement to be signed, some action, something they call a concession from Israel, and that peace would be achieved. This is a point of weakness; we want the people to understand peace and its factors in their true light.

Evidence of this is that any statement by Egyptian officials or any opinion published in the Egyptian newspapers which could mean a total withdrawal or something of the sort is considered as intransigent by America. U.S. journalists or officials who have visited Egypt reply to such opinions--including Javits--and consider this as Egyptian intransigence. Evidence of this also is offered by what is happening inside Israel. Even those who are demonstrating for peace and the Israeli opposition, too, do not understand peace. Differences between Begin and the opposition are not big. In Begin's last statement before his departure for the United States, he presented a number of points and said that he agreed on these points with the opposition. Among these points are: No return to pre-1967 borders and the rejection of slight modifications; Jerusalem to remain a unified capital forever; rejection of a Palestinian state and the PLO; rejection of any foreign military presence, even that of the United Nations in the West Bank or the Gaza Strip; Israeli military presence in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and along the Jordan River and preservation of the Israeli settlements and other things.

After one hears such talk, he asks what As-Sadat will negotiate over. This is proof of the developments after the As-Sadat visit.

Question: Such has always been the case between the government and the opposition in Israel, but Weizman had always been a hawk and now he is a dove. Is this not a positive development?

Answer: Hawks and doves are not empty words. Weizman has been and still is a hawk as far as Israelis go. If he is a dove and that is what he wants, as Begin has said, or if he was a hawk when he wanted to be, then what is the difference in epithets? The As-Sadat visit further complicated the situation: There had been UN resolutions and we had said that we would all move in the search for a formula for the conference and in the search for a working paper to implement the UN resolutions. There had also been international unanimity and international supervision. Europe, the United States, the Soviet Union, the Arabs and Israel had all been searching for a formula for the conference. They searched for a formula on procedural issues and formalities. It is true that there were difficulties but these difficulties were not insurmountable. The visit created a new situation. The Arabs were divided and so was the world. The visit created an Arab battle, and with an Arab battle the Arabs cannot head for peace; first they have to settle their differences. Moreover, we cannot issue a judgment on these issues without the conviction of the people. In Syria people in every village and town came out to condemn As-Sadat's visit. These people have doubts about As-Sadat's visit and its consequences. This condemnation was not confined to Syria. The same thing happened in Iraq, Algeria, Libya and even in countries where there were not demonstrations. The sentiments of the people have been against the visit.

Question: What alternative do you suggest, Mr President?

Answer: The alternative is international legitimacy. We adhere to peace through the international legitimacy which was renounced by As-Sadat. This legitimacy can be brought about through procedures stipulated by the UN resolutions.

Question: You mean Resolutions 242 and 338?

Answer: Resolutions 242 and 338 and other resolutions.

Question: But Iraq and Libya are against such resolutions.

Answer: They do not have to accept such resolutions. We had been moving in accordance with these two resolutions and their effects. There had been Arab unanimity in support of Syria and Egypt. In the steadfastness conference in Libya we issued a statement which stipulated the condemnation of As-Sadat's step mainly because it was against peace. This proves our adherence to peace.

Question: But Resolution 242 is vague. That is why it was not implemented. If it were clear it would have been implemented. If we say that there is an explanation for Resolution 242 stipulating the return of Israel to 1967 borders without exception, would Syria be prepared to sign a peace treaty [mu'ahadat salam] with Israel?

Answer: We have said that the elements for peace are three: withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967, restoration of the rights of the Palestinian people and an end to the state of war. The other issues which are being put forward cannot have any relations with any peaceful dealings. When two states go to war, one of them cannot tell the other: Come, let us cooperate economically; these issues are subject to subsequent developments. What is important is to end the war. We are in one of two states, either peace or war. When war ends there will be peace.

Question: Do you think Israel can live within the 1967 borders?

Answer: Must Israel live at our expense? Can we say, for example, that the United States has the right to have secure borders at the expense of Canada? If we agree on this principle the world would become a jungle and stop being civilized. How was Israel living before 1967? What achieves peace for a people is not a plateau or a piece of territory.

We must discuss the expression "secure boundaries." From the geographical viewpoint there is nothing which can be called secure boundaries and which can prevent attacks and aggression. Such boundaries are nonexistant, as was shown in 1967 and in 1973. We do not take examples from far-off lands. We take an example from our own region. In 1967 we were in the Golan and Egypt in Sinai. Yet Israel occupied both Sinai and the Golan. The Golan is described as a strategic position and Sinai, especially the straits, is also described as a strategic position. If you asked them about the Golan, they will answer: The Golan is impregnable. And if you asked them about the straits, they will also say they were impregnable. Yet, they overran them. In 1973 we overran the Golan and reached the river despite the presence of the Israelis on the hills and despite the embankment and the air force and everything. Nothing prevented us from crossing the Golan. The Suez Canal was also crossed by the Egyptians. It did not constitute "secure boundaries." Furthermore, we live in an age of modern weapons, the age of missiles, aircraft and long range artillery.

Question: Let us suppose that Israel becomes logical and returns to the borders of 1967. Would Syria then be ready to conclude a peace treaty with it?

Answer: The matter is not that of naming things. We are ready to move on to the state of peace. We would neither be logical nor at peace if we asked the Arab citizen to love Israel. The state of peace is one thing and love is something else.

Question: It is not necessary that you should love your neighbor in order to recognize him, but the question is: Are you ready to recognize him?

Answer: When the state of war is over, the one with whom I sign a peace treaty will be present. There can be no compromise: either a state of peace or a state of war. The country represented in the phrase of no war and no peace cannot be present. We have been in a condition of war for 30 years and if this condition ends, there will a state of peace. We want to move on to the state of peace.

Question: When Israel retreats and says there is a state of peace, can you imagine establishing diplomatic, commercial and cultural exchanges with it?

Answer: All this has nothing to do with peace. There are now Arab states with which we have no diplomatic relations but there is peace and fraternity between us. There are countries in the world with which we have no diplomatic relations, but there is peace between us and them. I want to say that peace treaties have no connection with the establishment of peace. Israel puts forward these matters to complicate things.

Question: There has been international unanimity on the establishment of a Palestinian state. How do you envision the Palestinian state? Do you see it in the West Bank and Gaza Strip or do you see it differently?

Answer: In fact, I do not like to speak about this issue because it is the business of the PLO, the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. In general the Palestinian people want a state which will include the West Bank and Gaza and which will be connected in one way or another.

On this issue we can have agreement, but unfortunately we talk about this issue while Israel is apparently not concerned. Israel considers the West Bank and Gaza part of it and refers to the West Bank as Judaea and Samaria.

Question: Let us suppose that the majority of the Palestinian people agree to establish a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza. Would Syria then agree?

Answer: We agree, the Palestinian people agree and the PLO also agrees, but I would like to say that the decision concerning this acceptance can be taken only by the PLO.

Question: While talking about the Palestinians, we should talk about the operations which take place abroad in the name of the Palestinian resistance. Do you approve of operations such as hijacking planes and hurling bombs outside the occupied territories and outside Palestine?

Answer: The PLO and the Palestinian people should not be judged through individual acts. Most of the Palestinian organizations do not approve of such acts. But it is difficult to tell displaced people: We cannot advocate your rights because you have made a mistake in hurling a bomb or hijacking a plane. We are against plane hijackings and if the person who perpetrates such hijacking is known, we will be against him. But hijacking a plane will not diminish my zeal in support for the Palestinian cause. I think that no other people must be harmed as a result of the Palestinian people's struggle to restore Palestinian rights. This struggle must be especially directed against Israel because it is the side that has usurped the Palestinian people's rights. Nevertheless, the people of Palestine are displaced, and we should expect individual acts that we do not like. Everyone of us should put himself in the place of the Palestinians and then he will find out that the tendency to commit mistakes is present in such cases.

Question: There are many who urge the Palestinians to put down the gun and indulge in political work. What is your opinion about this? Do you advise the resistance to do so?

Answer: I do not recommend leaving the gun or political work because Israel fought them with the gun and politics and they must struggle for their rights with both arms and politics.

Question: We have noticed recently that the fighting has increased between the deterrent forces and the Christian forces in Lebanon. What is the reason behind this? It is said that there are two reasons. One is that Syria wants to make use of the time as Israel is preoccupied with the Camp David conference and cannot help its allies. Syria will thus take this opportunity to eliminate the Christian militias. Another is that Syria wants to force Israel to interfere and so drag it into a battle and foil the Camp David meeting. Which of the two theories is correct?

Answer: Both are wrong. First, when the clashes started the topic of the Camp David meeting had not been proposed. The clashes started before any announcement had been made about this conference.

Second, it is not Syria that started the fighting nor is it the one that is doing the confronting. To say that Syria is the one that started it and is the one doing the confronting is a big mistake. I would like to say that there is an incorrect understanding of the subject. We are not a party to the issue of Lebanon and have no interest in all that is taking place. The matter is completely different: Those who stir up matters in Lebanon want to cover up for the Camp David conference because the majority of the Arab people are against this conference.

Question: Who do you mean stirring up matters?

Answer: I mean Israel and those who support it as well as those who have an interest in diverting Arab eyes away from the Camp David conference.

Question: There is a viewpoint which says that there is agreement in opinion between Syria and Israel, for neither want the Camp David meeting.

Answer: If Israel does not want Camp David, why did it go to it?

Question: Forced.

Answer: No, according to my knowledge President Carter did not send police to Israel and could not send police to force Begin to attend.

We are not a side in Lebanon. Those who are confronting the deterrent forces are militias in two groupings: The Phalangists and the Liberals. Had the struggle been bilateral, they would not have been able to confront the Syrian Army. Israel has been able to snare some leaders of those two groupings and is stirring them up. The job of our forces is confined to attempting to strike at tumult. These forces send patrols to chase those who make disturbances.

Question: How do you want your neighbor Lebanon to be in order to accept it as a neighbor? Is it a Lebanon owing allegiance to the East or the West?

Answer: What I want is for Lebanon to live as a secure and reassured state, for the Lebanese institutions to be set up and the massacres halted. I do not care whether Lebanon owes its allegiance to the West or the East. We have not gone to Lebanon for this. We went there in response to the calls for help and in compliance with the calls of children and women, including these militias that are attacking us. From the first day we said we cannot remain silent toward the killing of people and that we have a duty to carry out. We have performed our duty and stopped the fighting. I can say that the overwhelming majority of the world states which are concerned for the region were against our entry. [as heard]

Question: But the charge is made against Syria because it has a pan-Arab party and calls for one Arab nation and that the Syrian Army's entry into Lebanon came to establish greater Syria. Is this true?

Answer: We are unionists. The FRG consists of a number of states. Doesn't every nation have the right to seek unity? It is the right of the Arabs as a dismembered nation to seek their unity.

What we are for now is something else. We have not entered Lebanon to achieve unity but at the request of the Lebanese people and legitimate authority. The people have been fighting and killing one another for 2 years. Nobody was able to help them or offer them any useful service. We moved and stopped the killing. We said since the first day that we had a fraternal and humane task there, namely, to stop the fighting. Now we say this is still our objective: To stop the fighting and establish security.

Question: Mr President, when do you think the fighting will cease in Lebanon?

Answer: This does not depend on us, it depends on the legitimate authority. If the legitimate authority in Lebanon tells us thank you and if the Lebanese groups meet and manage their affairs, we will come out of Lebanon. Our presence in Lebanon is a great burden on us and a great sacrifice. Those who face us in Lebanon are not the Lebanese people or the Christian Lebanese. The Lebanese people consist of Christians and Moslems and the majority are Moslems in various sects. There are also numerous Christian communities. But the issue concerns a part of the Maronite community.

Question: A massacre took place near Bsharri and resulted in some victims. Does not this give rise to sentiments against the Syrian Army?

Answer: The Maronites in the north are all against the Phalangists; so also are the Maronites in the Al-Biqa' region. Most of the Maronites in Lebanon and the other communities have no connection with the incident. After this incident the populations of Bsharri and Zgharta met and demanded that they be given the task of purging the region of the Phalangists.

Question: Do the Lebanese people differentiate between the Phalangists and the rest of the Christians? Most of the Christians look on the Phalangists as their protectors.

Answer: This is not true. The majority of the Christians regard the Phalangists as imposed upon them. You must go back to the statement of Greek Catholic Patriarch Hakim and Greek Orthodox Patriarch Ilyas IV and also to the statements of Sulayman Franjiyah, who is a down-to-earth Maronite and a former president. There are also statements by a great number of Maronite personalities. If we knew tnat the majority of the Lebanese people were unanimous that we go, we would have gone. If there was even unanimity by the Maronites that we should go, we would also have gotten out of Lebanon. Everybody comes to us and warns us not to go out of Lebanon. Our forces are at the disposal of the Lebanese state. If the Lebanese state asked us to leave, we would leave. The Lebanese Government, the patriotic parties, the Moslems, the Palestinians and the Christian communities are clinging to us. What can we do?

If the decision had been ours, we would have purged Beirut. When the clashes began the Lebanese Foreign Minister came to us and said: What is to be done? We told him: The forces are at your disposal. What can the president do? Can he tell the soldier taking the beating to be silent? We said: Move our forces as you like. If you want these forces to remain in their positions and answer back when they are hit they will do so. If you want them to advance upon the areas from which the firing comes, this will also be up to you.

Question: There is a struggle among Palestinians on European land. How do you view it?

Answer: We are against such strife, but we believe that it is being instigated by a certain state.

Question: Minister Khaddam was in Moscow and during his stay he most probably touched on the Camp David meeting. What are your impressions about the Soviet position toward this conference? How can the Soviets support the Arabs?

Answer: The Soviet Union supports the Arabs politically and offers them military support, and this is not a new development. The viewpoint of the Soviet Union is that what is going on now is not in the interest of peace. Camp David is within this framework.

Question: Can the Soviet Union put pressure on Israel and if so, how?

Answer: The solution of the problem does not rest that much with the Soviet Union or the United States. Here also we disagree with As-Sadat, who says that 99 of the cards to the solution are in the hands of the United States. If so, what are we doing ourselves? The matter first of all depends on us in the area before it depends on others. However, the Soviet Union may provide assistance, and that is what it is doing. The Soviet Union certainly has an effective role in the peace process and we cannot bypass such a role. We used to hear from the American assertions as to the importance of this Soviet role. As-Sadat and Israel wanted to bypass this role but to the best of our knowledge the United States did not want to bypass it, especially since international resolutions point to this role.

Question: It is said that you recently stated that the Soviet Union supports Syria militarily in all of its requests. Is this true?

Answer: I did not make such a statement. The Soviet Union supports Syria. We wish that the Soviet Union could supply Syria with everything it wants, that is, for the Soviet Union to provide Syria with all it asks for.

Question: If the Soviet Union does not supply everything, will you try to fill the void from Germany during your visit there?

Answer: Does Germany possess such a desire? In any case, I have no intention of discussing this subject. I also believe that the German Government does not wish to discuss this subject.

Question: Your Excellency, you are going to Germany on your first visit. What is the role you want, or expect, Germany to play in the Middle East crisis?

Answer: We shall exchange viewpoints on the situation in the Middle East. We shall submit our viewpoint and we shall listen to that of the German side. Naturally, the exchange of viewpoints will undoubtedly be useful. We want Europe and Germany to play a role in the search for peace. I have stressed this point in more than one press interview and statement since 1973. Of course, Germany and the Europeans have general positions. However, we, the Arabs, have always hoped that Europe would play a larger role.

Question: Specifically, what is the practical role required?

Answer: I do not want to define it exactly. It is not proper or useful for me to do so. Undoubtedly Europe possesses means to participate in the peace process. As to their being defined, I do not want to do so.

Question: What is your evaluation of Syrian-West German relations?

Answer: Relations have developed during recent years. They are continuing to develop. This is a matter with which we are satisfied. There is wide scope for cooperation. We back the capabilities for cooperation. We understand officials in Germany also back these capabilities.

DAMASCUS NAMES DELEGATION TO ACCOMPANY AL-ASAD TO FRG

JN090930Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 9 Sep 78 JN

[Text] President and Mrs Hafiz al-Asad begin their official visit to the FRG on Monday at the invitation of President and Mrs Walter Scheel.

President al-Asad will be accompanied by an official delegation made up of 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad, minister of information; Dr George Huraniyah, minister of state for planning affairs; and Dr Adib ad-Dawudi, President al-Asad's personal adviser. The Syrian ambassador in Bonn will join the delegation.

ATH-THAWRAH VIEWS SYRIAN ROLE IN MIDEAST POLICY

JN091733Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 9 Sep 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Today's papers focus editorially on the conspiratorial meeting in Camp David and the imperialist collusion to which Lebanon is being subjected and which is aimed against the whole Arab area. The paper ATH-THAWRAH writes:

These critical circumstances through which the Arab cause is passing and the plots to which it is being subjected--and what is being prepared at Camp David will not be the last of these plots--make it incumbent on the Arab nation to face up in its future moves to the grave responsibilities of the imposed confrontation on all political, military and economic levels. If Syria's steadfastness was capable of stopping one face of the plot in the Lebanese arena and isolating and hindering the capitulationist scheme, the current Syrian move is directed along two parallel lines, Arab and international, with the aim of achieving several tasks, the foremost of which are:

1. To develop the actual Arab confrontation and consolidate coordination within the front of steadfastness and confrontation; to devise effective strategy to confront the imperialist-Zionist onslaught; to foil the capitulationist policy and its dangers; to advance the steadfast Arab stand toward achieving the tasks of liberating the territories and restoring the Palestinians' rights.

2. To expose the dangers of the American-Egyptian-Israeli deal on the establishment of a just peace in the area and on the area's political, cultural and human future. This is because the U.S. plan is mainly aimed at continuing the imperialist-Zionist domination of the natural resources and the strategic positions in the Arab area and Africa.

3. To insure greater support for the Arab cause through a dialog, because we have a just cause and we desire to put forth this cause to the whole world in order to win the support of the peoples of the world.

ISRAELI, EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS QUOTED ON CAMP DAVID

Caution on Overoptimism

TA101345Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 10 Sep 78 pp 1, 7 TA

[By Ron Ben-Yishay, in Maryland and Arye Zimmuqi, in Jerusalem]

[Excerpts] A senior Israeli source last night warned against too much optimism concerning what has to date been achieved in the Camp David summit talks. The source, who is the one closest to the Israeli delegation, said that what had been achieved to date in the talks could not be considered a breakthrough and that the wave of optimistic reports in the U.S. press was mainly baseless.

A senior Israeli source close to our delegation told the YEDI'OT AHARONOT correspondent that the report on a "new basis for negotiations which is not founded on Israel's declared positions" is without any foundation. This senior source also said that 99 percent of the political information on the talks being published in the U.S. communications media is nothing but "journalistic speculation," and "reveals the opening positions of the sides, but certainly not what is actually being said in the talks."

Sources close to the Israeli delegation said that as of today they are expecting a positive turn in the direction of the talks.

Arye Zimmuqi, YEDI'OT AHARONOT correspondent in Jerusalem, adds:

The prime minister's adviser on communications affairs, Dan Pattir, told me this morning over the telephone that it is not yet clear when the Camp David conference will end--and we have informed the Americans that we are prepared to continue with the deliberations without any time limitations, if we are asked.

He added that there is a good atmosphere and progress has been achieved on several issues, but there are still differences of opinion on basic issues.

From talks with members of the Israeli delegation it emerges that there has been progress in the deliberations, but there is still a great deal of work to be done in order to bridge the gaps between the positions.

Psychological Barriers Down

TA081734Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 Sep 78 TA

[Text] Right now the ministers of the Israeli delegation to Camp David are meeting with U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and the adviser for national security, Mr Brzezinski. Before that the U.S. and Egyptian delegations met, headed by the presidents of the two countries. Today no meetings have been scheduled between Prime Minister Menahem Begin and the U.S. President or the president of Egypt.

The prime minister's adviser on press affairs, Dan Pattir, said in a report to Israel that in fact the psychological barriers between the Israel and Egyptian delegations has fallen. For most of the time at the tripartite meeting of the heads of state there is a dialog between the president of Egypt and the prime minister and since the atmosphere at Camp David is not official, they also hold short private, meetings.

Dan Pattir said that the Israeli delegation is in permanent contact with Israel and the prime minister receives regular reports on what is happening in Israel. Dan Pattir added that the delegation is also getting the Israeli newspapers and he could say that all the reports in Israel concerning the contents of the talks are the natural fruits of assumptions.

In another few hours, when shabbat begins in Camp David, the Israel delegation will sit down at the prime minister's table for a traditional shabbat evening meal.

Egyptian Official Comments

TA1013Z7Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 10 Sep 78 pp 1, 7 TA

[By Ilan Kfir]

[Excerpt] President as-Sadat is firm in his decision not to go back again to the circle of wars in the Middle East, and even if the Camp David conference ends without success he will continue with his peace initiative, the head of the Egyptian Ministry of Information [title as published], Dr Mursi Sa'd ad-Din, told me.

The senior Egyptian information man explained: "President as-Sadat has decided on a long-term peace policy, if our current efforts fail. In this political framework he is checking out various possibilities for the future and so he met with the leader of the Israeli opposition, Shim'on Peres, and with Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman, who appear to him to be free of the binding historic principles such as those which restrict Begin."

Mursi Sa'd ad-Din did not deny the possibility that in the event of a failure at Camp David "new frameworks for peace efforts will be examined, and in this context maybe a return to the Geneva conference."

He said: "President as-Sadat hopes that peace will receive an impetus at the end of this stage of the deliberations at Camp David and that Mr Begin will not miss the historic opportunity."

In reply to my question on the significance of the phrase "long-term," mentioned by Mursi, he said: "President as-Sadat does not intend to drag out the negotiations over 14 years as the Panama deliberations were drawn out, but for a period of 2 or 3 years during which there may be political changes in the area, including, in this context, in Israel."

AL-AHRAM Editor Interviewed

TA0819562 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1820 GMT 8 Sep 78 TA

[Excerpts] Egyptian journalist Hamdi Fu'ad, who is the political editor of AL-AHRAM, says that Camp David will make it plain that the positions of the United States and Egypt are identical and that Israel must recognize and accept the U.S.-Egyptian position. Hamdi Fu'ad made these remarks in a talk with our correspondent in the journalists' center in the village of Thurmont. [begin videotape]

[Dan Shilon] The Egyptians are pinning all their hopes on President Carter and on the road he has opted to follow during the deliberations. The question of Judaea and Samaria, the heart of the Middle East problem, stands at the center of the conference. Jimmy Carter thinks that if he is able to bring the sides to a positive conclusion in principle on this question it will be possible for the conference to be crowned with success.

[Fu'ad--in English] Why should we discuss compromise on any of the territories or sovereignty or security; I mean the Israelis are not accepting compromises on security. Why should the Arabs accept compromises on their own lands and on their own rights?

[Question--in English] So what is your prediction, what can come out from this summit?

[Answer--in English] From this summit will come an American point of view which will express exactly the American commitments which have been existing since 1967 'till now, which has been repeated by President Carter in Aswan, and they have been repeated again in Camp David in last February when President as-Sadat visited President Carter, February this year.

[Question--in English] Do you believe that the declaration of principles can be accomplished at Camp David?

[Answer--in English] I believe that this was discussed in Jerusalem and the Egyptian and the American points of view were nearly identical, but let me say openly and frankly, the Israelis did not react to this idea. Now we want to see what will come out of this. Will the Israelis really accept this principles which are exactly as the American spokesman said before the beginning of this conference: that 242 will be sacred, that 242 will be always the framework for a solution for the Middle East problem.

[Question--in English] Are you personally optimistic about the results of this summit?

[Answer--in English] I tell you frankly, optimism and pessimism, this is a psychological feeling, it is not a political stand. I feel if there is a real will from the Israeli side--and I say Israeli side--that they want to have, to reach peace, the peace which everybody knows and recognizes, then there will be success. If they will insist on the same kind of old arguments and old ideas and compromises on everything, I don't think there will be success. But, in a sense, there will be a success, that at least the American point of view will be clearer and will be done officially in the presence of the Israeli officials in this summit, particularly in the presence of Mr Begin and his own delegation.

YADIN, BURG CONSULT WITH POLICE, IDF ON TERRORISM

TA082009Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1820 GMT 8 Sep 78 TA

[Text] During the first 8 months of this year 82 terrorist squads were captured, in contrast to 67 such squads during all of last year. This was reported today by the minister of the interior, Dr Yosef Burg.

Prof Yiga'el Yadin, the acting prime minister, and Dr Burg consulted this afternoon in Jerusalem with top officials of the Israeli police on how to prevent lives from being harmed following the discovery of explosive charges. Correspondent Rami Gov met both men at the end of the meeting. [begin videotape]

[Yadin] In my capacity as acting prime minister and acting defense minister, together with the minister of the police, we met today with elements from the IDF and with general headquarters police officers in order to review and take a look at, first of all, the general activity of all the security arms in view of the attacks and to check to see what can be done to effect improvements. I think we emerged, both of us--at least, I can speak for myself--with the feeling that everything that can be done is of course being done and if there is any need for additional measures, they will not be lacking.

[Burg] I can say specifically that we have procured and we will procure special instruments--without my needing for the moment to go into detail as to what they are and what they do--in order not, as I said, to save money but rather to save human lives.

[Gov] Over the last few weeks we heard several times that the police have reinforced their forces and they are in a state of alert, particularly with the approach of the Camp David summit, and despite this, the attacks have increased. Does this mean that we are in fact exposed and helpless in the face of these attacks?

[Burg] This question is one which I am not prepared to accept in this form. The logical difficulty with the whole matter is also one of logistics--We are deployed as we are deployed, but the terrorist determines the when, where, the target, the object and the method. [end videotape]

CORRESPONDENT PHONES PHALANGIST LEADERS IN BEIRUT

TA0817177Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1505 GMT 8 Sep 78 TA

[From the Weekly Newsreel]

[Excerpts] While all eyes are on those consulting at Camp David, the Syrian Army is reinforcing its forces in Lebanon and the main sufferer is the large Christian community in the Land of the Cedars. The Christians are concerned by the Syrian expansion into the area of the port of Juniyah and they fear a continuation of the shelling of their quarters in the capital, Beirut.

Freddy Eytan spoke on the telephone, from Paris, with three of the Phalangist commanders in Beirut and with several Christian families in the Al-Ashrafiyah quarter in Beirut. He heard from them about the deployment of the Syrian forces in the north of the country, about the mood in the Christian quarter in Beirut and about the aid being given them by the State of Israel. [begin recording]

[Eytan] According to the Christian leaders, the situation in northern Lebanon is most worrying and is constantly degenerating. According to the reports they have, the Syrians have recently been rushing in large troop reinforcements and many tanks, helicopters, four-barrelled antiaircraft guns and Soviet SAM missiles. They estimate that 70,000 Syrian soldiers have penetrated into the area since last July's declaration. The Syrian forces, with the support of Franjiyah's and Karami's forces, have taken control of the main traffic arteries and they have encircled the Qadisha Valley as well as the villages of (Abu Mana) and (Zlaima).

The civilian airfield, which was built secretly last year by the Phalangists, was conquered by the Syrian forces at the end of the month. It is interesting to note that not long ago a film was shown on French television in which the Phalangist commanders spoke with pride of how they built the airfield and of how useful it was.

Today, with the conquest of the airfield, the Christians living in the north are cut off from the outside--except, of course, for Juniyah port, which, according to them, is working practically at full capacity. Over the last few days several Syrian boats have tried to approach the port, but, according to the Phalangist general staff, they were repelled by boats they did not identify and which patrolled along the coast.

In Al-Ashrafiyah the situation is tense and the concern over the Syrian shelling of the quarter is increasing. The local inhabitants believe, nevertheless, that Damascus will not go too far.

Life in the quarter is going on as normal. Several Christian families with whom we spoke expressed deep concern at the growing Syrian threat, but they told how they go to work daily and that it is possible to find everything needed at the local market.

The Phalangist general headquarters in Beirut thinks that the Syrians will not enter into street fighting against them. They are aware that the highest commander of the Damascus forces, Gen [name indistinct], will not spread his troops out on a wide front within the builtup area of the Al-Ashrafiyah quarters.

The militias have 700 to 800 regular fighters at their disposal and they can recruit up to 8,000 men in order to repel a Syrian attack. They compare the curfew imposed on them with the situation of the Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto in World War II. The militias are holding onto the Christian quarter psychologically, through the Phalangist radio and the paper LE REVEILLE, whose editor is the son of Pierre al-Jumayyil. The only possibility left to the Syrians is to conduct a massive artillery shelling of the Christian quarter. This week the Damascus troops tried, unsuccessfully, attacks with tanks, aided by modern and sophisticated equipment for night fighting made in the Soviet Union. The fear created in the quarter by the Syrian shelling is increasing daily. Despite the fighters' high morale, many families are leaving for France.

The Christian leaders with whom we spoke complained bitterly and expressed great disappointment to us over French policy toward Lebanon and over the policy of the West in general. Today they rely very much on Israeli aid. In the current situation, as long as there is no serious change, the Christians will not ask for direct Israeli intervention and will willingly accept heavy and light weapons and moral support. The Phalangist leaders will call for an Israeli invasion only when matters reach the breaking point; until then [words indistinct] and long-term considerations, they will reject calls in Jerusalem for intervention.

However, the Phalangist general staff headquarters evaluates that if any sort of achievement comes out of the talks now being conducted in Camp David, this will permit them, because of the split which will be created in the Arab world, to demand that the United States put pressure on Damascus, and on Israel to increase its activity in Lebanon. [end recording]

LIKUD CRITICISM OF DEFENSE MINISTRY POLICY ON LEBANON

TA0809l0Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 8 Sep 78 p 14 TA

[By Haggay Eshed]

[Text] The emergency convention held by the Likud faction on Lebanon last Friday afternoon, a convention which was called at the last moment and continued until after sunset is not a regular step. It constituted an indirect expression of no confidence in Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman and in his deputy, Mordekhay Zippori, about the way they handle the Lebanon issue. The convention came as a result of the fear of a sudden Syrian attack in Lebanon during the course of the Camp David session and of fear that the Syrians may be encouraged to do so by the positions of Weizman and Zippori, by the public declarations by the deputy defense minister and by the guided essays by military correspondents who cite "senior security sources" in which the personal, direct style of the defense minister is clearly discernible.

The major accusation made by the Likud is that Zippori's public words constitute "a green light" for the Syrians to take hold of northern Lebanon and that they weaken Israel's deterrent capability.

It is not very common for a minister to appear before the Knesset faction members and criticize another minister. However, this is what happened this time. Industry, Commerce and Tourism Minister Yiga'el Horowitz, who is head of one of the Likud factions, the La'am faction, has named Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman as the one who is responsible for his deputy's remarks, which were seriously criticized by most of the Likud faction members. Similarly, the criticism leveled by the deputy minister in the prime minister's office, Yoram Aridor, at the Defense Ministry on the Lebanon issue is not a common phenomenon. These two people's words, as well as those of many other faction members, have revealed the tip of the iceberg of the deep dissatisfaction with the way Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman is fulfilling his duties. The main cause for this dissatisfaction is with respect to Lebanon, but several faction members have taken advantage of the opportunity to signal to Weizman that they are displeased with him on other issues as well. This signaling is not enough to threaten Weizman's political status at present, but it can markedly decrease his maneuverability and his bargaining capability against Prime Minister Menahem Begin and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan.

Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman flew to Camp David with his wings clipped and he will only be able to spread his wings and soar again if Prime Minister Menahem Begin totally fails at the summit meeting while he manages to express reservations on the positions Begin might take during that meeting, and blame him for the failure--if this should indeed occur. The Knesset Likud faction has signaled to Weizman that once again he is approaching a crossroads in which his future status will be determined whether he takes the initiative or allows Begin to continue to lead him. However, for the time being, the Lebanon issue serves as the focus for concern, criticism and no confidence. For some time now, Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee Chairman Prof Moshe Arens and chairman of its sub-committee for Lebanon affairs Yig'al Allon have acted in coordination, despite the partisan barrier separating them. Now it seems that on this issue Moshe Arens--one of the leaders of Herut--has been receiving the support of all the Herut and La'am Knesset faction members. Only among the liberals are there those who defend Weizman and Zippori, and their chief spokesman is Deputy Finance Minister Yehezqel Flomin.

The arguments against the Weizman-Zippori line were of varying natures. Arens claims that they are wrong in presenting the cabinet and the public with only two extreme possibilities of reaction to the Syrian Army's activity: the one--noninterference and the second--direct and full IDF intervention. Arens claims that there is a wide spectrum of alternative possibilities for action besides these two polar possibilities and that the other ones should be activated after consideration and as the events merit.

What he and those who follow this line of thought mean is that there are many other possibilities for guerrilla war and other irregular fighting in which the IDF excelled during its first year and in which the Palmah, Ezel [Irgun] and the Lehi [extremist group of Ezel] did even better. In talks with Likud Knesset members, one can hear people express wonder: Was it not possible to help the Phalangists and "the tigers" to organize units like Unit 101 and carry out activity like that of the underground organizations against the British Army--which numbered 100,000 soldiers--and opposed a Jewish settlement comprising 600,000 people? [paragraph continues]

Where is the IDF and its commanders' resourcefulness? These questions once again arouse the dormant criticism of the Litani operation and the lack of imagination and originality which marked this operation. Thus it is possible to hear claims that the IDF has become "an American army," big and cumbersome, and cannot operate small and mobile units like it did prior to the Yom Kippur War. It is not without reason that Weizman and Zippori warn against Israeli involvement in Lebanon in the style of the Vietnam War. They only see U.S. examples, the critics claim. (If a kind of Captain Wingate were to arise in the IDF now, "he would be kicked downstaires.")

Deputy Minister Yoram Aridor mentions the fact that one of Israel's political aims throughout its 30 years of existence has been to prevent a Syrian takeover--or any other foreign takeover--of Jordan and Lebanon. Even now such a takeover can be regarded as "casus belli." Aridor recalled the Egyptians' moving the missiles, in contrast to the cease-fire agreement, in August 1970, an action which passed unanswered and the signs of which could be seen during the Yom Kippur War 3 years later. We might also have to pay the price for reconciling ourselves to the Syrian takeover of Lebanon in several years' time, when it is too late to amend. Ehud Olmert, whose influence in the Knesset Likud faction is on the ascent, said that anyone who gives up war at any cost is inviting another war in the future and at a higher cost. He said that it is not too late to amend the impression created by the Israeli declarations that the cabinet was averting any action concerning Lebanon.

The counterarguments to this criticism are that Israel is extending the precious military aid to the Christians while they are separated and split and do not know how to effectively use the aid extended to them. Another argument is that the Christians themselves have not asked Israel to do more than it has so far done for them. The first argument is correct, but the conclusion deriving from it is that it is necessary to invest more and more sophisticated efforts in overcoming the elements of division among them, which causes their weakness. As for the second argument, the fact of the matter is that at first Israel was only asked to intervene directly, but this was rejected and since then the request has not been repeated. If there is an Israeli readiness to escalate its intervention in Lebanon and deter the Syrians from conquering the Christian area in northern Lebanon, one can assume that an appropriate request will be made. The argument against an Israeli involvement in a "Vietnam-like" war in Lebanon is what worries Weizman's critics most of all. It reflects a mentality of forsaking weak allies (not very distant, but close to home, near the fence). It may lead to giving up Israel's strategic freedom of choice and to its being limited to one type of war--a defensive war following an overall offensive like the Yom Kippur War. If the terrorist attack on the bus on the coastal road had not taken place, would the IDF have carried out the Litani operation, the purpose of which was to uproot the infrastructure of the terrorist organizations in southern Lebanon and to establish a security strip along the border? The warning against "a Vietnam" shakes the principle of "going beyond the fence" which has been the guideline for the Jewish defense forces and the IDF during all their wars up to the Yom Kippur War.

These are the topics of the argument which is currently underway in the Likud faction around the Lebanon issue and around the wave of criticism of Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman. The continuation of the argument depends, of course, on the results of the Camp David Summit. It is not the first discussion on security affairs raised by the chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, Prof Moshe Arens, and a group of Knesset members from Herut and La'am with him.

IMPERIAL COURT MINISTER HOVEYDA RESIGNS

LD090814Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0800 GMT 9 Sep 78 LD

[Text] Mr Amir Abbas Hoveyda, minister of the imperial court, was received in audience by the shahanshah aryamehr this morning and tendered his resignation from the post of minister of the imperial court. The resignation was graciously agreed to by the blessed person of his imperial majesty.

SHAH'S VISITS TO GDR, ROMANIA POSTPONED

LD091047Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 9 Sep 78 LD

[Text] The following statement was issued by the imperial court today:

In accordance with the lofty interests of the country, his imperial majesty in his sagacity has thought fit that his imperial majesty should not leave the country at this juncture. His imperial majesty has ordained, in expressing his regret for not making the trip on 11 September 1978 to the Socialist Republic of Romania and the GDR, that the definite date of the trip is to be announced later.

Signed: Grand Master of Imperial Ceremonies Amir Aslan Fashar

PRIME MINISTER PRESENTS GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

LD101102Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 10 Sep 78 LD

[Text] The government today presented to the Majlis its 42-page program which includes significant points about economic, social and political policies. The prime minister said that old accounts will be carefully studied, and those who violate people's rights and the treasury will be handed over to be dealt with and punished in accordance with the law, without any leniency. The prime minister also referred to noninterference in judical power and the insuring of the independence of judges, which are of great significance to the government, adding that only in this way will the justice minister be able to prosecute and punish violators of public rights.

The prime minister said that if corruption is not fought with decisiveness and speed, and destructive slogans not replaced by national slogans, our country will not survive the existing problems. While discussing the government program, the prime minister, who was addressing the Majlis, referred to unity and solidarity, which are a requirement of progress, and then added that the government is determined to fight against bureaucracy, which is incompatible with our national and religious interests and beliefs. The prime minister, continuing his speech, said: We are all faithful to the country's regime; we will not abandon the course of progress; we will not allow anarcy to destroy the solid and stable life of the people. In another part of his speech, Mr Sharif-Emami stressed the protection of individual rights and respect for freedom of expression and speech, adding that in this regard a new press law will soon be presented to the Majlis.

The prime minister said that the rule of law will be borne in mind in all administrative decisions and systems so as to render government organizations more efficient. The prime minister emphatically pointed out that agricultural produce incomes as well as those from animal husbandry and livestock farming will be made tax-exempt.

Mr Sharif-Emami alluded to more welfare for civil servants and pensioners, adding that in the current year another increment will be given to civil servants. The prime minister reiterated that costly projects not beneficial to the people will be omitted. The prime minister expressed regret over recent events and added that the government treasury is ready to compensate the families of the victims and those killed during the incidents.

The prime minister further referred to efforts aimed at economizing and encouraging investments, adding that a review of tax collection methods--in particular to ease the pressure on low-income groups--is under consideration. The prime minister said that the present government, being aware of the support of national forces and every Iranian individual, is convinced that it will discharge the duties undertaken by it under the Koran, the sublime Islamic precepts, and within the terms of the constitution.

While the government program was being presented to the Majlis, members of the pan-Iranist group as well as independent members of parliament left the meeting as a sign of opposition.

Further Report

LD101340Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 10 Sep 78 LD

[Text] The government presented its program today to the Majlis, but the pan-Iranist and the independent members left the Majlis before Mr Sharif-Emami could present the government program. The members blame the government for the recent incidents and hold it responsible.

At the meeting, which was held in an extraordinary session under Mr Abdollah Riazi, Sharif-Emami said: When the shahanshah recognized the issue of liberalization and preliminary steps were taken, the government tried to make allowances for all groups and eliminate all problems. We have already contacted all groups and this will be continued; we will continue our methods to the end; we will not abandon our work with these disturbances and rioting. Mr Sharif-Emami said that once censorship was lifted and freedom of assembly and expression established, a handful of people unfortunately abused this privilege and resorted to rioting and unlawful actions. Nevertheless, the government reminded them with patience and tolerance to observe order and peace.

The government's statements at the beginning were an indication of its attitude and course of action. Despite the fact that the government announced in its statements that assemblies were free and that people could express themselves freely, provided such assemblies were held with the prior knowledge and permission of the police department and traffic was not impeded, thus creating problems for the people, it was noted, nevertheless, that they blocked a street, held public prayers there and, in the name of Islam and religion, violated all the regulations which should have been observed for the survival of the country and maintenance of order. However, our patience and tolerance too has a limit; then we reached a stage when people started questioning our tolerance and the issues of freedom and liberty, for if these lead to the collapse of the country, then one cannot call them freedom.

The prime minister said that the rioters and troublemakers want to overthrow the government and destroy the country. That is why, in order to prevent the country's collapse, we have taken certain actions. Unfortunately, the freedom which should derive from the Majlis emanates from the streets.

Mr Sharif-Emami, speaking at the open meeting of the Majlis today, said: The people must know what is being said here; in this respect, I have issued clear orders for these debates, whether for or against, to be made available to the people, so that they may know what their deputies are saying; for the Majlis must represent the people's freedom. I say here today that what is uttered here will be reported from now on in all news media. We must join forces, cooperate genuinely and honestly, so that our programs can be implemented.

Mr Sharif-Emami added: I did not volunteer to become prime minister. However, since this grave task was handed over to me, I will carry it out to my dying breath. I must tell you that I will not allow a group of self-seeking people to endanger this country. Leaving the scene is out of the question. I will not do so.

The prime minister said: Obviously, you know that there existed a situation which brought about a certain discontent; it takes time to eliminate it. I cannot perform magic and put everything right in an instant. However, I can pledge that all of us will strive to make the roots of the discontent wither, thus providing more welfare possibilities for the people. But, as I said, this takes time.

Mr Sharif-Emami said: I assure you that any necessary welfare measure in any part of the country will be taken with the cooperation of the ladies and gentlemen present.

At this point Mr Sharif-Emami informed the Majlis of the government's working policy and program, saying: Before anything else, I deem it necessary to draw the attention of the members to the sensitive situation in the country, especially now that considerable political, social and economic problems are facing the country. All of us know that at present the situation in our beloved country has reached a sensitive stage when the solving of the problems cannot be achieved unless all the national forces are mobilized to save the country, we cannot hope for a bright future in which our society is led toward good, comfort, peace and order. There is no doubt that our country in recent years has traveled a difficult path and has made a great many political and economic gains. However, it ought to be mentioned that this rapid change has, unfortunately, also brought about a certain discomfort, which has slowed down in many cases our economic progress and caused disruption in the field of welfare.

Considering this fact, one must say that under the shahanshah's leadership the indefatigable efforts by Iranian toilers have made great changes and brought about a great dynamism in our country. Had we paid proper attention in the various stages of these rapid changes to the consequences and resultant waste, then we could have formed a healthy infrastructure for our national economy and at the same time prevented any rift in or penetration of national unity, so that our people would not have to face such a sensitive situation as that facing our society.

However, I must point out quite frankly that the shortcomings of Iran's bureaucracy not only could not tame the waste created by this rapid change, but led to public discontent, so much so that we are now witnessing the resultant disorders. We are now hearing the unpleasant noises of such discontent from various parts of the country. Therefore, there is no doubt that if, on the one hand, immediate action is not taken to fight the corrupt and corruption and eliminate its traces from our country and if, on the other hand, the destructive slogans, opposed to our independence and national standing, are not replaced by national slogans, then there is no doubt that our country will not outlive the problems it is facing.

The prime minister then said: It is time now for all of us to strive for more unity and solidarity. To achieve this end, the government is determined to avoid and discontinue bureaucratism [divansalari], which is contrary to our national interests and religious beliefs, and to take steps to review the inadequate laws which have led to the people's discontent. We are determined to exert enough effort until such time as a general change of approach in the country's overall policy is felt by all classes. Obviously, the support given to the government by the legislative body will help in achieving this objective.

The present government considers itself accountable to the Iranian people; it is in view of this responsibility that it has prepared itself to serve them. It is in view of the careful and correct recognition of this responsibility that the government believes firmly in freedom for all classes and social groups within the framework of the law and protects such freedom. Protection of individual rights and respect for freedom of expression and the press are stressed by the government. It is because of this that a new press bill has been prepared and will be presented to the houses of parliament in the near future. Consequently, the press will have the opportunity to carry out its serious task within the context of Iranian democracy. We hope this freedom will be properly used, and the interests of the country always borne in mind, so that the integrity, honor and lawful rights of every individual may remain immune from any encroachment.

Furthermore, to reach this objective, we are planning to present to the houses of parliament in the very near future a bill allowing freedom of assembly. Obviously, in any healthy society, order and freedom are two essential conditions for the establishment of democracy. For in chaotic society no one can express his opinion. We are all faithful to our country's regime; we will not abandon the progressive course adopted by it; we will endeavor to achieve our sublime national objectives and will not allow anarchy to shatter the stable and solid foundation of the life of our people.

Another important point is that the increases in and unfair distribution of incomes recently have, unfortunately, shaken and weakened the spiritual foundations of our society. This in fact has led to a lack of consideration for morality and spiritual values; we are, unfortunately, witnessing these symptoms. Therefore, deriving its inspiration from the sublime Islamic precepts, the government will pay profound attention to moral problems, whether in the field of education, writing and publication or public media.

Mr Sharif-Emami said: The government is the servant of the people. This is an unshakable principle in which the government truly believes. Consequently, it feels dutybound to be aware of the people's wishes, ideas and beliefs. This is only possible when the people have sufficient possibilities to express themselves and their ideas, and, in the case of their rights being violated, have a reliable and authoritative quarter to turn to. There is no doubt that attending to complaints and claims by everyone in light of this principle will be continued without the slightest leniency and discrimination and divorced from any influence. Obviously, the judiciary will take action with everything in its power to protect and secure justice. The creation of a calm and secure environment for holding free elections is particularly significant. Consequently, while remaining completely impartial, the government will make use of all lawful possibilities and its authority to realize this objective, so that all people and groups might be able to prepare themselves within the context of the law for participation in the election.

Let me now refer to some of the more significant points included in the government program.

The prime minister said: Agriculture has special priority in the government's economic program. There is no doubt that without achieving self-sufficiency in essential products, our national security and economic independence will be put in jeopardy. Consequently, immediate measures to review laws governing agricultural products as well as related regulations and plans are inevitable, so that, while protecting the rights of the farmers who have become landowners in accordance with the land reform law, proper conditions for the maximum use of the means of agricultural production and related services are created, so that, in addition to having access to the required foodstuffs, measures are also taken to strengthen and support national industry. The government will not tolerate any disorder or disruption in national production. Provision of welfare services, such as water, power, telephone, health and medical treatment will also be attended to. The government is striving to give proper momentum to this constructive movement in rural areas. In this respect, believing in the principle of decentralization, the necessary authority will be delegated to the provinces.

Mr Sharif-Emami then said: Considering that a great many of our social and economic problems are the direct or indirect result of inflation, the fight against inflation will be one of the government's main objectives. To achieve this one has to strike a balance between supply and demand as well as proper monetary and financial policies. Therefore, the government's efforts are aimed, on the one hand, at the implementation of economies and, on the other, at encouraging proper investments in production, thus making this balance possible.

A review of tax collection methods in order to ease tax pressures, particularly those burdening the low-income groups, is under consideration. Moreover, considering the short[illegible]gs in the income tax system, the government will in the near future submit a new [illegible] to the legislative body. Wide-ranging and fundamental attention will al[illegible]by the present government to youth affairs, improving universities, the ex[illegible]cation and training, based on national and social interests and backed by [illegible] of people's participation as well as the introduction of new opportu[illegible]ng the people to take a fundamental role in the future of their country.

The [illegible]ister then said: The rule of law will be applied in all administrative decisions and methods, to render government organizations more efficient and to achieve the objectives they are assigned. More rapid measures will be taken with regard to issuing retirement personnel actions as well as eliminating anomalies between civil servants. Furthermore, measures will be taken to improve pensioners' conditions. Meanwhile, the current year's annual increment for all civil servants will be awarded them. The Economic Affairs and Finance Ministry has been instructed to make arrangements for payment of the said sum as soon as possible, and then to communicate the method of making use of the allocation to other government organizations.

The prime minister said: Investments in private sectors, taking complete cognizance of consumer's interests, will be encouraged, so that complete trust for such investments is created. Consequently, attempts will be made to have tax and customs regulations less subject to constant alterations. Moreover, private initiatives in the economy will enjoy adequate support.

Annual steel production, considering the fruitful projects underway, will be increased within the next 5 years from 1 million tons to 10 million tons; furthermore, the Sarcheshmeh copper mines project will be begun in the current year with an annual production of 150,000 tons. Right now, we enjoy substantial foreign currency reserves. However, I assure you that, except for capital goods and education, these resources will not be used.

Mr Sharif-Emami said: Our cultural policy is based on safeguarding Iranian culture, so that it might preserve its originality vis-a-vis other cultures and, while being promoted, it may remain unpolluted. Noninterference in the judiciary and the maintenance of judges' independence will be particularly emphasized by the government, for only by this means will the Ministry of Justice be able to prosecute and punish violators of public rights. Among other essential objectives of the government is a clean-up of the administrative system, eliminating luxury and exhibitionism, and preventing the use of undue influence or unlawful interference in the affairs of the country.

The prime minister then continued: The honorable members know that at this juncture our country is encountering certain problems, the solution of which requires the comprehensive endeavors of all Iranian people within their national and social duties. It is this very national duty that I myself and my colleagues, in order to repay the debt we owe to our people and country, are determined not to entertain the slightest fear of the problems present at this juncture in the history of the homeland and not to refuse to accept responsibility. However, I am certain that if God's blessings do not embrace us, and if all groups and classes of Iranian people--farmers, workers, businessmen, shopkeepers, university professors and students--do not cooperate with the government, we will not reap the desired fruit.

The present government, enjoying the support of national forces and every single Iranian, is convinced that it will emerge from this situation gloriously, under the blessings of the Koran and in the light of sublime Islamic precepts, as well as within the context of the constitution, and will successfully fulfill its duties.

JUSTICE MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON INCIDENTS

LD102314Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 10 Sep 78 LD

[Interview with Iranian Justice Minister Mohammad Baheri by correspondent Sattar Deldar--recorded; date not specified]

[Excerpt] [Question] Mr Justice Minister, during the recent weeks we witnessed new relations in our country's political and social atmosphere; these relations brought an open political atmosphere. But with the declaration of martial law since last Friday, many world news agencies announced that the summer of Iran has come to an end; i.e., the political summer of Iran. I would like to ask you this question: Did the open political atmosphere and the summer of Iran really come to an end last Friday with the incidents that we witnessed in Tehran; or can we hope that future changes will enable the continuation of a different form of this summer?

[Answer] Iran's summer has not come to an end. The inference of foreign news agencies, like all their conclusions concerning the situation in Iran, is wrong and sometimes coupled with falsehood. Martial law is a temporary event. The government was forced into it and accepted it with great regret and full reluctance.

As soon as conditions are prepared for the protection of freedom and continuation of free activity for all groups, and it is certain that one group will not cause trouble for another and when violence, trouble and disorder are not renewed, the summer climate will continue just as it was clearly visible recently. The present government, right from the outset, tried to protect, endorse and strengthen it.

[Question] What factors caused the establishment of martial law? Under the conditions that prevailed the past week in our society, was this necessity really felt in all its dimensions?

[Answer] With great regret, I ought to say that a close association developed between the Marxists and the various dissident strata of the people. This close association ought to have been prevented through wisdom and farsightedness; for the Marxists have other aims. The dissidents ask the government organizations to execute their duties with propriety, to protect liberties and insure that aggression against public rights, the public treasury and public interests is discontinued. These were legitimate and acceptable demands which were the primary aims of the government. These ought to be the national wishes of Iran and of the Iranian nationalists; but the nationalists of Iran should be alert so that the Marxists do not find themselves in such close association with the proposers of these demands that the former should not lead the latter astray. Regretfully, the Marxists succeeded to some extent, and unfortunately necessities came forth which rendered the declaration of martial law by the government unavoidable.

[Question] When you speak of one specific dissident group and say that the Marxists were involved and took part in these assemblies, the question arises as to how these extensive assemblies took place in Iran; I mean do you believe that these assemblies, with all their wide dimensions, (?were organized by the Marxists)?

[Answer] Yes. The Marxists used the people's concern for religious principles and the dissatisfaction on the part of the people regarding the government institutions, and with their organizational ability led these assemblies in the direction that they wished. Yes, this is true; yes, it is so.

[Question] Mr Minister, could you explain to our listeners and viewers of Iranian TV as to how you view this organization? Well, on the one hand, there were Marxists. Who were the remainder and what groups and interests were ready to cooperate with them?

[Answer] Well, a number of dissidents and collaborators of the Marxists in these organizations. I ought to say that some of them were power hungry and thought they could achieve their maniacal aims in this game. Of course, they thought that they would leave (?the club), but they too acquired familiarity in the club and collaborated with them. However, and I say this with honesty, most of them are not Marxists, but the hunger for power drove them into cooperation with the Marxists. I regret very much seeing one person, whom I respect, even propose that the communists be permitted to organize. It is strange. This person consistently based his thoughts and ideology on the precepts of Islam. How is it possible for a person to rely on Islamic ideology, be proud of Islamic culture, especially when his political base rests in religious tenets and authorities, and then that person accepts the organization of the communists? Did we forget that under the Islamic culture no one else but a believer in God's omnipotence is entitled to participate in political life? This is an Islamic principle. Of course, we ought to try to guide infidels including the Marxists as well as other classes.

We ought to reason and discuss with them and lead them in the right direction and [words indistinct]. We (?ought to then accept) their organization and participation in the political life. Unfortunately, persons whose adherence to Islam and whose patriotism are not questioned have nevertheless megalomaniac thoughts in order to attain their own political aims [words indistinct]. But they ought not to choose the flimsy path of collaborating with the communists and giving them a bribe by accepting their right to organize [words indistinct]. This is not right. The Marxists (?used) the people's dissatisfaction and attracted their political talent which was coupled with hunger for power and thus paved the way for such violent demonstrations. When we paved the way for the emergence of a summer in Iran, we did not think at the time that an order should exist in this summer under which harmful weeds should be encouraged to grow. Summer ought to cherish only flowers and fragrant and useful plants. The summer of freedom should be utilized by all creative talents so that the country can attain progress. The summer of freedom is not for a number of saboteurs to cause suffocation, denial of freedom and chaos.

In order to realize the continuation of Iran's summer, with great regret the government was forced to declare martial law. I will be frank with you that the government was very concerned and accepted this method of solution with complete reluctance. After the declaration of martial law, events took place as a result thereof, and because provocative groups instigated the people to resist the law, these events have really caused regret and sorrow on the part of all the government members. All of us at the cabinet meeting last night were sad and sorry.

PRIME MINISTER PRESENTS CABINET TO MAJLIS

LD1001141Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2000 GMT 10 Sep 78 LD

[Text] Mr Sharif-Emami today introduced his cabinet members to the Majlis and presented a detailed report to the Majlis members on the basic policies and government activities in various areas. While further describing the government programs, the prime minister said: I declare categorically that income from agricultural produce, livestock breeding and husbandry will be exempt from all forms of taxation. We will omit extravagant projects that are not beneficial to the people and will compensate for the budget deficit by canceling extravagant and unnecessary expenditures.

Mr Sharif-Emami said: I say honestly that we will carefully study the accounts of the past and will legally prosecute and punish the aggressors against public rights and the public treasury and will not permit any form of negligence and oversight in this respect. I further say that the government will shape with determination all the activities of the development programs in conjunction with national, religious and moral customs and will reject what is not relevant to the religious and popular usage of the Iranian nation.

I pray for the sacred souls of those killed in recent events, and I am sure that not only I but every member of the Iranian nation is sorry for these events. I declare that the country's treasury is ready to compensate the damages inflicted on the relatives of those killed and to render its duty in this respect. My colleagues and I convey our condolence to all Iranians on the occasion of this disaster and pray God for mercy for those killed.

According to our correspondent's report, the government's program will be debated at a Majlis open session next Tuesday and the Majlis members will begin their discussion.

PREMIER PROMISES TO PUBLICIZE MAJLIS DEBATES

LD101130Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 10 Sep 78 LD

[Interview granted by Iranian Prime Minister Sharif-Emami to Tehran radio's Barahman Shirza following the meeting of the Majlis on 10 September--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Considering the declaration of martial law, do you think the government is going to change its policies with regard to social liberties?

[Answer] Absolutely not. The government has no intention of changing its policies. These decisions were taken because of the situation brought about by a handful of people. However, we intend to carry on with granting complete freedom. As I pointed out in the Majlis, this will begin with the Majlis, where the people's representatives are. All Majlis debates will be reflected and published in the news media. Consequently, the people will feel that the old system under which debates in the Majlis were not publicized will no longer be continued.

[Question] What about the martial law in the capital city?

[Answer] I hope that people's behavior, especially the behavior of those who brought about this situation, will change, so that we might be able to lift the martial law as soon as possible.

CABINET MEETS 9 SEPTEMBER, DISCUSSES CORRUPTION

LD091956Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1900 GMT 9 Sep 78 LD

[Text] The fight against corruption was discussed today at the cabinet meeting. The meeting, which was held under the auspices of Prime Minister Sharif-Emami this evening, also decided to establish commissions with the participation of the heads of justice departments, the directors general of economic and finance departments, and the chief of police departments. Also participating will be reliable local figures, under governors general in the provinces. The commissions will assess the damage caused to the public during the past few months as a result of disorders and actions by irresponsible individuals.

Minister Reports on Meeting

LD092121Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2000 GMT 9 Sep 78 LD

[Summary] The cabinet discussed the fight against corruption at its meeting this afternoon and set up a commission to assess damages caused to the people as a result of the recent disorders.

"The minister of state for executive affairs said after the cabinet meeting: The damage inflicted on the people will be paid for from the public treasury. He stressed that the country's treasury will compensate for the damages inflicted on innocent people as a result of disorder and aggression by irresponsible individuals. He added: It was also decided by the cabinet today that the Ministry of Information and Tourism should study the resumption of activity by some journals and publications which have been prevented from continuing their work in recent years, and report to the next cabinet meeting."

The cabinet also made decisions on the abolition of the film festival and on curtailing unnecessary expenditures on formalities.

COMMUNIQUE SAYS 'FOREIGNERS' BEHIND DEMONSTRATIONS

LD081704Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 8 Sep 78 LD

[Communique No 4 by the military governor of Tehran and district]

[Text] As the public was informed through the government's statement, martial law has been declared in certain cities of the country in order to stop the bloodshed and the illegal and anticonstitutional demonstrations as well as to safeguard national unity and protect the lives of the people of the country. Martial law has been announced to take effect beginning at 0600 on 8 September 1978. However, this morning, among the demonstrators were a number of well-known anarchists, who, considering their actions, are obviously behaving in accordance with the plans and financial backing of foreigners. They used Molotov cocktails, torches, handgrenades, fired various weapons and used knives and daggers to violate people's lives and property in various parts of the country. They also wounded a number of troops with guns and knives. Despite all the warning by the security officers to disperse, these elements not only ignored the warnings but became even more aggressive and attacked the officers.

At this juncture, in order to fulfill their legal duties and in order to establish order and security, the security officers opened fire and thus dispersed the attackers and arrested some of the demonstrators. They handed them over to legal authorities. Unfortunately, according to figures reaching us by 1730 today from various hospitals, these incidents resulted in 58 deaths and 205 injuries. While recalling his legal duties and taking cognizance of the fact that every single incident is to be communicated to all the citizens of Tehran and suburbs in an accurate manner, the military governor of Tehran and suburbs expects the Tehran people to cooperate with the officials of the military governorate so that measures are taken to establish their welfare and peace.

[Signed] The military governor of Tehran and district, Gen Gholam-Ali Oveysi.

NONE OF NATIONAL FRONT'S LEADERS ARRESTED

LD091946Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1930 GMT 9 Sep 78 LD

[Text] None of the National Front's leaders have been arrested and all of them are free. This statement was issued following some reports by the news agencies that several National Front leaders had been arrested.

MOSLEM LEADERS SHARIAT MADARI, KHOMEYNI COMMENT

TA092010Y Paris AFP in English 2006 GMT 9 Sep 78 TA

[Text] Tehran, Sept 9 (AFP)--The leader of Iranian Shi'ite Moslems today called for "revenge from God" following the deaths of dozens of people in yesterday's riots in Tehran.

In a telephone conversation with AFP from Qom, the Shi'ite religious center of Iran, Ayotollah Shariat Madari asked "for revenge from God against those who so bestially treated our children." The Shi'ite religious leader said that on receipt of the news of the tragedy in Tehran's Zhaleh Square area yesterday religious establishments in Qom and throughout the country immediately went into mourning. He added that today had been proclaimed a day of national mourning.

"We are anxious to tell the Islamic Moslems to keep completely to the laws of Islam because these are very delicate, sensitive and dangerous days, and the people should guard themselves wisely so that they may not give any excuses to the colonialists and tyrants," he said. The ayatollah said he had prayed to God to give success to the Moslems and to help them achieve their religious and constitutional aims. "Certain elements are trying to cause disunity among the ranks of the religion, but the spiritual body of the Shi'ites shall remain completely united," he added.

The ayatollah said: "Even the resources of the country's news media will not be able to cause the smallest breach in our religious unity through their falsification and scheming."

Meanwhile, Ayatollah Khomeyni, the Shi'ite leader, living in exile in Iraq, issued a call for resistance against the shah today. In his call, released in Paris by "the Committee for Defence and Promotion of Human Rights," Ayatollah Khomeyni described the shah as a "criminal" and "a violator of the constitution." He said he regretted not to have been among the demonstrators in Tehran "to give his life on the path of God," and called on the Iranian Army to rise up. He also called on all religious dignitaries of Islam and respected political personalities who did not fear "the repression of the shah" to close ranks to "fight the enemy of the Iranian people." Ayatollah Khomeyni added: "I pray to God for the victory of Islam and of the Moslem."

POLITICAL GROUP ISSUES COMMENT ON MARTIAL LAW

LD081730Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 8 Sep 78 LD

[Excerpts] Following the declaration of martial law in Tehran and a number of other cities, the Iran's Problems Evaluation Under the Revolution Group outlined its views in a statement. This is the first political group to comment on the martial law. The statement says:

There is no doubt that in the course of recent disorders, which were on the verge of endangering the foundation of national unity and the survival of the country, elements inspired by foreign dictates as well as agents fulfilling foreign designs have been involved. However, there is no doubt that had it not been for the mistakes, misbehavior and improper events during the past few years, especially the events following the sudden rise in the oil revenues, the people's discontent with corruption, discrimination, inflation, unbridled behavior and failure to implement development plans as well as enjoying luxury would not have reached such a climax, thus paving the ground for elements opposed to unity and national survival.

The group once again points out very clearly: Those people who created disorder, discontent and doubt and mistrust through their evil doings, corruption, complacency, dishonesty and lies are accomplices of the enemies of our survival, integrity and national and cultural identity as well as of our profound religious beliefs. These elements must be recognized as such.

Obviously, the declaration of martial law cannot be a permanent solution for social, political and existing economic problems in our society. On the contrary, by making use of the peace and order which will be restored, God willing, executive officials must strive without wasting time to remove discontents, appease public views and attend to people's wishes and not hesitate to implement reforms and the necessary changes expected by the people. Otherwise, the problems will manifest themselves once again in a larger scale, in which case their settlement would be definitely more complicated.

AFP REPORTS 'UNEASY CALM' PREVAILS IN TEHRAN

TA110926Y Paris AFP in English 0922 GMT 11 Sep 78 TA

[Text] Tehran, Sept 11 (AFP)--An uneasy calm returned to the Iranian capital today after a night of curfew disturbed by the rumbling of military vehicles. By this morning, the fourth day of martial law, the army had clearly bolstered its forces in the city. Troops and armoured cars had doubled their numbers in some areas. Tehran newspapers carried an increased official death toll of 95 from Friday's fighting between the army and anti-shah demonstrators.

Prime Minister Sharif-Emami's anti-corruption crusade, announced in parliament yesterday, was meanwhile already beginning to bite, according to RASTAKHIZ, the newspaper of the only legal political party. A former health minister, Sheikh Holislam Zadeh, and two of his deputies had been arrested, said the paper. Action against official corruption has been a major demand in the past eight months of political unrest. Further arrests could follow shortly, said the paper. A number of people, thought to fear investigation, had gone into hiding, it added.

Tied to the anti-corruption campaign is Mr Sharif-Emami's liberalisation programme, due to be debated in the Majlis (lower house of parliament) tomorrow. Measures included permission for five weekly newspapers to reappear, compensation for those suffering property damage in recent troubles, and "free elections" next June, newspapers said.

The papers also announced the cancellation of the Tehran film festival and the scrapping of a 72 million dollar concert hall.

Official visits abroad for purely protocol purposes were forbidden, they said.

JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA CONCLUDES VISIT

LD081350Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 8 Sep 78 LD

[Excerpts] Mr Takeo Fukuda, the Japanese prime minister, and his wife today concluded their 4-day official visit to our country and, after an official sendoff ceremony attended by Prime Minister Mr Ja'far Sharif-Emami, left Tehran for Shiraz. The Japanese prime minister and his wife will spend 2 days in Shiraz.

In his interview with correspondents the Japanese prime minister referred to his talks with the shah as extremely useful and fruitful and expressed the hope that a new era may be opened up in Iranian-Japanese relations.

AFGHANISTAN

PAKISTAN'S HAQ HOLDS TALKS WITH TARAKI

BK1010202Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 9 Sep 78 BK

[Text] The chief of the army staff and chief martial law administrator [CMLA], Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, and the chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of Afghanistan, Mr Nur Mohammad Taraki, have agreed that there is a tremendous scope for cooperation between Pakistan and Afghanistan and that both the countries will strive for friendly and peaceful relations. These views were expressed at a 90-minute meeting between the two leaders at Taghman, a summer resort 17 kilometers from Kabul, today.

The meeting between the two leaders was highlighted by an atmosphere of cordiality, warmth and informality. The discussions between them continued during the luncheon President Taraki gave for the chief martial law administrator. During Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq's 4-hour stay in the Afghan capital, President Taraki remained with him. The CMLA extended an invitation to President Taraki to visit Pakistan, which he accepted. The Afghan President remarked that he was looking forward to visiting Pakistan and meeting its people. The CMLA said he had brought feelings of goodwill and freindship for the government and people of Afghanistan. President Taraki replied that they had already extended their hand of friendship to Pakistan.

During the meeting General Zia said Pakistan and Afghanistan were neighbors and the people of both the countries were Moslems and that he believed in Islamic brotherhood. He said he thought there was a tremendous scope for cooperation in joint ventures. Pakistan could also help Afghanistan in any field the Afghan Government desired. In order to improve the quality of life of the people of Pakistan they wanted peace to concentrate on their development.

Reciprocating the sentiments of friendship and goodwill, President Taraki said they too believed in friendship and peace. He thanked Pakistan for the grant of transit trade facilities to Afghanistan and said it was an indication of friendship between the two countries.

The CMLA said facilities like transit trade were only a few gestures which a friend could make. He said: We want to assure you that there is a friend next door. We are taking some steps, including new initiatives, to further improve our relations with all our neighbors, including Afghanistan, India and the Soviet Union. If Afghanistan could have good relations with India, why could Pakistan not also have still better relations with Afghanistan? Differences between these countries, if any, should not come in the way of their total relationship. Any differences could always be discussed and resolved through discussions.

The chairman of the Revolutionary Council of Afghanistan reciprocated by saying: I confirm what you have said. We have already declared the aims and objects of our revolution and we believe that all differences should be resolved through peaceful means.

Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq said Pakistan stood for self-reliance and good neighborly relations with its neighbors. President Taraki replied that he entirely agreed with him. They believe that the countries themselves could resolve their differences without any intervention from outside. They also believe that differences could only be resolved through friendship.

The CMLA told the Afghan president that he was going to Iran after his visit to Kabul. President Taraki replied that he was a distinguished leader from a neighboring country and he could convey the feelings of friendship and goodwill to the shahanshah of Iran from them.

The CMLA informed the Afghan leader of the flood situation in Pakistan and said by the grace of God Almighty Pakistan was saved from them this summer although some damage was done by heavy rains in certain areas. He expressed his anxiety over the damage which Afghanistan suffered this summer. He said our (?gift) supply of relief goods, including tents and medicine, is on its way from Pakistan to Afghanistan. Mr Taraki thanked him for this gesture and said: We appreciate it.

Discussing the regional relations between Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan, the CMLA said this is the age of regional cooperation. The countries of this region must cooperate among themselves for mutual benefit. They should help each other, taking advantage of each other's resources.

The chief martial law administrator was assisted by the minister for finance, Mr Chulam Ishaque Khan; the minister for ports and shipping, Mr Mustafa Gokal; the defense minister, Mr Ali Ahmed Talpur; the adviser on foreign affairs, Mr Agha Shahi; the foreign secretary, Mr S. Shahnawaz; and the Pakistan ambassador to Afghanistan, Mr Ali Asad.

Mr Nur Mohammad Taraki's side included the deputy prime minister, Mr Hafizollah Amin; the interior minister, Mr Aslam Watanjar; the deputy minister for political affairs, Mr Shah Mohammad Dost; the acting chief of staff, Gen (Babejan), and senior officials.

Later, the chief martial law administrator arrived in Tehran today on a 2-day visit to Iran. The CMLA is due to meet the shahanshah this evening. Romorrow he is due to leave for Mashhad.

BANGLADESH

PRESIDENT ATTENDS NORTH KOREAN ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCES

For Korean reportage of Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman's visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, see the North Korea section of the 11 September issue of Asia & Pacific DAILY REPORT.

ZIA MEETS TENG HSIAO-PING IN PYONGYANG

BK100843Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 0835 GMT 10 Sep 78 BK

[Text] The Chinese vice premier, Mr Teng Hsiao-ping, called on President Zia at the state guest house at Pyongyang last night. During the 45-minute meeting they discussed matters of mutual interest and reviewed the regional and international situation. The Bangladesh foreign minister, Prof Mohammad Shamsul Haq, was present at the meeting.

The leader of the Pakistan delegation, Mr Arshad Chaudhry, who is also the minister for technology, met the Bangladesh president and exchanged views on matters of mutual interest.

The foreign minister, Prof Mohammad Shamsul Haq, who is accompanying the president, had a talk with his DPRK counterpart, Mr Ho Tam. Mr Ho Tam, who is also the vice premier of his country, exchanged views with Prof Haq on bilateral, regional and international matters.

INDIA

VAJPAYEE LEAVES FOR MOSCOW ON OFFICIAL VISIT

BK1008S2Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Sep 78 BK

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, left for Moscow a short while ago on a week's visit to the Soviet Union.

Earlier, talking to newsmen at the Delhi airport, he said that he is looking forward to his visit to Moscow as an important opportunity to exchange views on wide-ranging issues with the Soviet leaders. He will discuss the international situation and bilateral issues including his visit to China.

Referring to Indo-Soviet relations, Mr Vajpayee said they are an important factor of India's foreign policy. They are based on equality, mutual benefit and peaceful coexistence. Indo-Soviet relations have grown in strength over the years and India has a dependable and reliable friend in the Soviet Union.

The minister also said that the Soviet Union is the third most important trading partner of India. The Indian exhibition held last month in Moscow was visited by over 1.5 million people. This shows how deeply the friendly people of the Soviet Union are interested in India and its economic problems.

Referring to the international situation, Mr Vajpayee said there have been a number of important developments since he met the Soviet foreign minister, Mr Gromyko. Mr Vajpayee expressed the hope that his visit will further strengthen the friendly ties which already exist between the two countries.

He also said that he would be visiting Afghanistan on his way back from the Soviet Union. He will stay overnight at Frankfurt before leaving for Moscow.

FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS ON KASHMIR REFUTED

BK0916l0Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Sep 78 BK

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, Sheikh Abdullah, has denied that he had told the former U.S. ambassador, Mr Loy Henderson, in 1952 that he favored independence for the state. Replying to an adjournment motion in the assembly today, the chief minister said it was Mr Henderson who wanted to know why the state could not remain independent. Sheikh Abdullah had told the ambassador that the independence of the state was not possible. The sheikh said that in his inaugural speech to the State Constitutent Assembly in 1952 he had made it clear that the future of the state lay with India.

PAKISTAN

HAQ RETURNS FROM VISITS TO AFGHANISTAN, IRAN

BK1108O8Y Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 11 Sep 78 BK

[Text] The chief of army staff and chief martial law administrator, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, returned to Karachi today after visits to Afghanistan and Iran.

Acting governor of Sind Mr Justice Abdul Qadir Sheikh, provincial martial law administrator Let Gen S.M. Abbas and high civil and military officials welcomed him at the airport.

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